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New Fighting in Abkhazia Heightens Tensions Between Georgia, Russia

A fresh outburst of fighting in Abkhazia, including the capture of the town of Gagra by Abkhazian separatists, has "seriously complicated" relations between Russia and Georgia, ITAR-TASS reports. Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze has described events in Abkhazia as "the result of a large-scale conspiracy against Georgia, and the Russian parliament decisions of 25 September have given impetus to broadening this conspiracy." In a message to Russian President Yeltsin, Shevardnadze warned that Georgia "reserves the right to demand the total withdrawal of all armed forces belonging to the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Georgia and the transfer to Georgia of all those armaments," as stipulated by cease-fire accords signed in Moscow on 3 September. For his part, Yeltsin warned that he would "take appropriate measures to defend the interests of Russian citizens who find themselves in danger" in Abkhazia, reports INTERFAX.

Russia's Shumeyko Defends Government Restructuring Plans

Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, commenting to IZVESTIYA on the restructuring of the Russian Government recently ordered by President Yeltsin, explained: "In gearing itself to the requirements and priorities of economic reform, the government commission proposed a new administrative model—less cumbersome and more suited to the real state of the economy and the Federation Treaty.... The government will now consist of 40 people—directors of the central departments and, in line with the Constitution, the heads of government of Russia's constituent republics. By eliminating the clusters of committees attached to ministries, we hope that the vertical implementation of policy will improve and that it will prove possible to speed up transformations at the bottom end of the economy." Responding to critics who feel that the Supreme Soviet should be allowed a greater role in shaping the new system, Shumeyko commented: "The executive power structure is the business of that authority alone. For the government to do this is the prerogative of the government."

Ukraine's Kravchuk Names Acting Premier; Urges Unity in Working for Future

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk appointed Deputy Premier Valentyn Symonenko to act as prime minister on 2 October, filling the gap left by the resignation of Vitold Fokin, who quit last week under pressure from the republic's parliament, reports Kiev television. Kravchuk, addressing a government session that same day, attempted to cast the government's sights forward, saying: "Now we have to think about the future, strengthen the economy, and try to create institutions of power, ministries, and departments responsible for the vital activity and provision of the population with foodstuffs and electricity and to work efficiently, remembering that winter is ahead."

Armenia Hopes for Agreement With Russia on Joint Air Defense System

"Russian-Armenian talks on the deployment of the Armenian national air defense [AD] system 'have not been finalized yet,'" Vazgen Manukyan, Armenia's acting state minister for defense, has told INTERFAX. If all Russian air defense personnel withdraw as planned, leaving only "timeworn and outdated" hardware, Armenia would in effect be left without an air defense system. Manukyan said that his government's proposal "consists in dual subordination of the AD troops deployed in Armenia—to the Russian and Armenian defense ministries, with the equipment in their inventory updated." Although no final agreement in the matter has yet been reached, the sides have "agreed to prepare a mutually agreeable program which is to be completed" in time for the CIS leadership summit scheduled in Bishkek on 9 October.

Kozyrev Comments on 9 Oct Bishkek Summit

Sees 'Milestone' in CIS Development

OW0210175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, Igor Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia believes that the meeting of the CIS heads of state scheduled for October 9 will be another major step towards a stronger Commonwealth of Independent States, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated on the eve of the talks between the CIS foreign ministers to be held on October 5.

He said that the CIS is not a mechanism of "civilized divorce" for the former Union republics, but an instrument of further integration, "naturally, on the condition that the CIS members respect each other's independence and sovereignty".

Cooperation in economy, disarmament, security-building and joint defence is becoming increasingly important, said Kozyrev.

He also stated that the CIS member-states should cooperate in the human rights sphere. "This is Russia's initiative," he noted, "the idea of which is to ensure that the CIS member-states observe human rights and implement the related international norms". The Russian initiative is directly linked with the rights of ethnic minorities - the problem both East and West are concerned about.

There are no reasons for pessimism, said the Russian foreign minister. The growing integration within the Commonwealth should not be viewed in isolation from the CSCE process. But even Western Europe, which has an integration experience of 40 years, gets confronted with problems sometimes. Naturally, we, too, will have to deal with problems and with different positions on various questions. But the main thing is not to panic, said Kozyrev.

Priority should be given to the national interests. I am convinced, Kozyrev continued, that Russia and all other states have the biggest stake in establishing cooperation. "This is expected to be done in Bishkek which will become a milestone in the development of the CIS."

Says CIS States Must Strengthen Ties

LD0510114192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0939 GMT 5 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow October 5 TASS—The Commonwealth of Independent States should not be viewed "as a mechanism of a civilised divorce, but as an instrument of improved interaction 'between the states' with due respect to the sovereignty and independence of all its members, to the real advantages of coopereation," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a meeting of CIS foreign ministers which opened in Moscow on Monday [5 October]. The meeting is to prepare documents for the CIS summit in Bishkek scheduled for October 9.

The meeting testifies to the big importance which is attributed to the upcoming summit of heads of state and government in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Kozyrev stressed.

The ministers are to agree upon the "most complicated and vulnerable issues" and to provide heads of state with draft decisions prepared to the maximum, coordinator of the CIS working group Ivan Korotchenya told TASS. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and heads of other CIS states acquainted themselves with documents submitted for the Bishkek meeting and authorised their foreign ministers to meet again and agree on the issues in question, he added.

All CIS states are participating in the Moscow meeting. They are represented either by foreign ministers or other representatives authorised to sign corresponding decisions, Korotchenya said.

There are two main problems at present—the hot spots and strategic armaments in the Commonwealth, CIS Commander-in-Chief Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, who is also attending the Moscow meeting, told TASS. He said he managed to "bring closer to the maximum the positions of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan on strategic nuclear forces." As far as Ukraine is concerned, it is necessary to wait until a new government is formed there, the commander-in-chief said. "There is hope that Ukrainian position will be similar to the positions of three other CIS 'nuclear' states," he added.

Quoted on Preparations for Summit

OW0510111892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today, the foreign ministers of the CIS have gathered in Moscow to prepare the Bishkek summit.

Shortly before the opening of the conference, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told IF [INTERFAX] that "a number of weighty draft documents will be offered to the presidents in Bishkek".

This is the second meeting of the CIS foreign ministers, said Kozyrev. Its idea is to prepare the Bishkek summit in such a way as to ensure that it become "the third stage in the development of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a stage that would turn the CIS from an instrument of survival following the break-up of the Soviet Union into an instrument of integration, however unsmooth or diversified".

The Russian Foreign Ministry did not show particular concern about the fact that Ukraine has sent an observer to the meeting of the foreign ministers. Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told IF that what really matters is the scope of representation, not its level.

Rules to Protect Human Rights Needed at Summit

LD0410151492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The adoption of the CIS rules at the October summit of the Commonwealth heads of state in Bishkek would make it possible to create a mechanism for protecting human rights in the republics of the former USSR, and to avoid a great migration of peoples. This hope has been voiced by Yevgeniy Prokhorov, director of the legal directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry. At present, he told a RIA correspondent, work on the draft document is underway. Nearly 25 million Russians live in other CIS countries, the Russian diplomat said. Most of the problems are arising in the Baltic states, especially in Latvia and Estonia, where the law encroaches upon the rights of a considerable part of the population on the basis of nationality. According to Yevgeniy Prokhorov, introducing double citizenship in the Baltic and other states of the former USSR would become an important step in resolving this issue.

Foreign Ministers Open Meeting in Moscow

LD0510083592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0744 GMT 5 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow October 5 TASS—CIS foreign ministers began a meeting in Moscow on Monday [5 October] to discuss the agenda of the upcoming summit of Commonwealth heads of state in Bishkek on October 9.

The ministers will also discuss a number of legal, economic, financial and military issues.

Shaposhnikov Previews Defense Ministers Meeting

OW0510112692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 05 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [5 October] Marshall Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, declared to INTERFAX that the situation in "the burning points", and particularly in Tajikistan, is among the military problems to be urgently solved by the Commonwealth. He pointed out that this issue is expected to be discussed on October 7 in Bishkek where the CIS Defense Ministers are to gather on the eve of the CIS "summit".

According to Shaposhnikov, another problem to be discussed in Bishkek is connected with "further specification of the issue on the strategic nuclear forces." Marshall reported that he had meetings with the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. He managed "to make maximum nearer" the positions of Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan in solving the issue on strategic nuclear forces. As far as Ukraine is concerned, the Commander-in-Chief expressed his hope that "mutually acceptable compromises" are quite possible here" [quotation marks as received] but the situation has been aggravated by the fact that the Ukrainian Government has resigned.

USSR Navy Chief Turns Over Duties to Russian

OW0210115392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1113 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The last Soviet Navy chief, Admiral Konstantin Makarov, has turned his duties over to the new chief of Russia's Navy, Admiral Valentin Selivanov, the Navy's press-service has disclosed.

Kasatonov Moved From Black Sea Post to Navy

PM0210173592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Oct 92 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Candidates Sought for the Job of Black Sea Fleet Commander, but Admiral Kasatonov Still Carrying Out Duties"]

[Text] In accordance with the Russian president's 26 September decree, Admiral Igor Kasatonov has been relieved of his duties as Black Sea Fleet commander and appointed first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Navy. In view of the Black Sea Fleet's special status, however, a new appointment can take effect only once candidacies have been agreed between Ukraine and Russia. Until then, the duties of commander will continue to be performed by Igor Kasatonov.

According to the Navy Main Staff, all the newly appointed admirals apart from I. Kasatonov (see KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 September on cadre changes in the Russian Navy) have begun carrying out their new service duties. The post of commander of the Leningrad Naval Base still remains vacant.

Two Candidates Surface for Black Sea Fleet Post

LD0410072292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Two candidates for the post of commander of the Unified Black Sea Fleet have appeared. The NEGA agency reports, citing reliable sources, that they are: Vice Admiral Kalabin, chief of staff of the Pacific Fleet, and Vice Admiral Klitnyy, former first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

As is known, the post of commander of the Fleet was vacated after the Russian minister of defense this week signed a decree appointing Admiral Kastonov first deputy commander in chief of Russia's Navy.

It also has become known that Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, commander of Ukraine's Navy, will be sent as naval attache to a foreign country. The vacated post will be occupied by his deputy, Captain 1st Rank Nikolay Kostrov.

Observers note that the present shake-up in the naval command bears witness to the beginning of the implementation of the Russian-Ukrainian agreement on supervising the Black Sea Fleet. Let me remind you that under it, a person acceptable to both sides will hold this post. Moreover, he will have deputies representing both Russia and Ukraine.

Negotiations Said Difficult

OW0510115292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 05 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [5 October] the press center of the Ukrainian Navy told INTERFAX that Vice Admiral Vladimir Kalabin, the first deputy of the Pacific Fleet Commander, and Vice Admiral Nikolay Klitnyy, the former chief of the Black Sea Staff, are the main candidates for the post of the Black Sea Fleet Commander. The Russian party proposed the candidacy of Kalabin and the Ukrainian—Klitnyy.

According to the press center, the negotiations of the experts in Kiev devoted to the appointment of the Black Sea Commander "are being conducted in a hard atmosphere".

Morozov Accuses Kasatonov of Betraying Fleet

OW0210193192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1911 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov stated that the political aspect of a republican military doctrine under preparation, which envisions its nuclear-free and neutral status, would remain unchanged. He spoke at a press conference in Kiev Friday [2 October] which was dedicated to the first anniversary of his service as the minister. He also added that the doctrine does not contain such a notion as "potential enemy".

Morozov said that Ukraine continues to exercise the administrative-technical control of strategic nuclear forces stationed on its territory and subordinated to the CIS Command. "The process of taking the oath of allegiance to Ukraine has started in these units", Morozov noted.

The defense minister noted the existence of "certain difficulties" in deciding the fate of the Black Sea Fleet due to different approaches of Ukraine and Russia to this problem. "While Russia understands the transitional period as the time of the Fleet's inviolability, Ukraine seeks to raise and discuss all disputable questions in this transitional period", Morozov pointed out.

Konstantin Morozov spoke in favor of instituting legal proceedings against "the command of the Black Sea Fleet and its Commander-in-Chief Igor Kasatonov for selling out its property." The minister said that he had submitted some evidence to the Ukrainian General Prosecutor's Office.

Asked about his attitude to the resignation of Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, the minister noted that "he understands the Ukrainian parliament's decision and has no intention to discuss it."

Black Sea Fleet Did Not Send Men To Abkhazia

OW0510115892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valeriy Novikov, the chief of the CIS Navy's press center declared that the ships of the Black Sea Fleet never participated in the transportation of volunteers, weapons, and military equipment to the regions of hostilities in Abkhazia. In his interview with INTERFAX he pointed out that a patrol-ship of the Black Sea Fleet "Bezukoriznenny" is on patrol near the cape of Pitzunda-Adler. The commander of the ship, Aleksander Podlozhkov, reported that 44 aircraft and 37 helicopters had been detected over only one day on October 3. Despite numerous warnings the MI-8 helicopters tries to near "Bezukoriznenny" at the distance of 2-3 kilometers. [sentence as received] The crew was forced to open warning fire from a machine gun. Radars managed to fix landing of these helicopters on the airdrome "Leselidze".

Novikov also reported that 17.5 thousand people were evacuated by the ships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet from Abkhazia over the last few days.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Oct

LD0310070392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 3 Oct

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 3 TASS—By ITAR-TASS:

Most of the morning editions of the Moscow-based newspapers today frontpage reports from areas of armed confrontation and inter-ethnic conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports an intention of Rakhman Nabiyev, who was removed from the presidency of Tajikistan, to regain the position, and his pronouncements about the need for Russia's large-scale military presence in that republic. Meanwhile, the war in Tajikistan is going on, the newspaper observes.

An aggravation of the situation in Abkhazia is reported by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Having mentioned an offensive launched on the city of Gagra by Abkhazian forces and by units of the Confederation of Highland Peoples, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that they use the most up-to-date tanks "which are in service only with the troops of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States". KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes about the Georgian side's use of combat aircraft with the identification marks of the Russian Air Force in the fighting.

The political circles of the Kabardian-Balkar Republic that press for the resignation of the leadership of the republic which is part of Russia "feel their strength not only as a result of political triumphs. They grow stronger from the combat point of view as well", KRASNAYA ZVEZDA emphasises. According to the newspaper, more than 600 people have already joined combat detachments and the amount of confiscated ammunition and weapons has sharply grown in recent days.

Russia's land forces "by the availability and condition of armaments and combat hardware and by the stock of material resources is now capable of accomplishing missions assigned to them," Colonel- General Sergey Mayev, deputy commander-in-chief of land forces, told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

At the same time Mayev pointed out a number of serious problems being encountered by the Army. In particular, the share of outdated hardware and armaments is 70-75 per cent of the total amount, and the land forces are undermanned by more than 30 per cent.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA expresses doubts as to advisability to seek new credits for Russia from the International Monetary Fund. The newspaper's opinion is that "IMF credits are of importance not by themselves. Their meaning is that, due to them, optimum conditions must be created for massive foreign investments in the economy of Russia". However, the newspaper believes "one should possess a truly refined economic intuition to perceive in the appalling muddle of our economy anything that could attract foreign investors. A genuine integration into the world economy requires that an elementary order in one's own affairs should be established first and that only then one may get into new debts".

PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, commenting on hearings on the "CPSU case" in the Constitutional Court, acclaim remarks made at the court session by former Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov as a witness. PRAVDA runs the text of his remarks, maintaining that on that day "the proceedings rose to a qualitatively new level". SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA is convinced that "this is what the court should have started with".

Before the end of this year the number of drug users in Russia will grow up to 5-5.5 million, PRAVDA predicts. Nevertheless, Arkadiy Kuznetsov, chief of the Russian Interior Ministry's department to combat the trafficking of narcotics, in an interview with PRAVDA, expresses hope that the situation will be rectified soon.

"Russia is committed to cooperation with the Arabs," Dr. A. al-Turki, rector of the Islamic University from Saudi Arabia, told PRAVDA. He described the work done by the second international Moslem forum in Moscow on the subject "Islamic education in Eastern Europe and Moslem states" and related his meetings with representatives of the Russian leadership. The so-called Bremen drawings by the world's major painters, has been "legalised" and will soon be put on view for the general public to admire. The collection was taken out of Germany during the Second World War and has been kept in the Soviet Union ever since in utter secrecy.

A decision to this effect was taken at the first meeting of the Russian state commission for the restitution of cultural values displaced during the Second World War, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reports. The commission's chief, Russian Culture Minister Yevgeniy Sidorov, told the newspaper about plans for the commission's work.

Spokesman Hails U.S. Ratification of Arms Treaty

LD0210231492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow has welcomed the news about the ratification of the Strategic Arms Treaty by the United States Congress. Mr. Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said his country would also try to speed up the ratification process by its parliament.

The spokesman also said that the two countries were engaged in intensive talks in a bid to hammer out an agreement on further cutbacks in nuclear weapons.

Warships Head to Gulf To Support Iraqi Sanctions

OW0210162192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned from the source in the Russian Defense Ministry that on October 4 Russian warships will enter the Persian Gulf. The large ASW [antisubmarine warfare] ship "Admiral Vinogradov", from the Russian Pacific Fleet, accompanied by the tanker "Boris Butoma", leased by the Far Eastern Shipping Company were dispatched to that region on the directive of the Russian government for supporting the UN sanctions with respect to Iraq.

U.S., British and French warships have already arrived in the Gulf. "Russian sailors will maintain constant and close contact with them," the high-standing official in the Russian Defense Ministry said. A quadripartite meeting on the issues relating to cooperation among them will be staged next week in the harbor of Manama (Bahrain).

The source in the Russian Defense Ministry expressed hope that the situation in the Persian Gulf will remain quiet and there will be no hostilities there, although he did not completely exclude such a possibility. In his words, the "cannon aboard the ships are always in combat readiness and can be immediately used on the ship captain's command for self defense".

The Russian warships will spend two months in the vicinity of the Iraqi coastline. On December 4, they will cast off heading for Vladivostok. It is not clear yet whether any other warships will be dispatched to replace them. "This can only be done on a special directive of the Russian government," the Defense Ministry representative said.

Spokesman: Weapons to Iran 'Not Destabilizing'

OW0210174492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboinikov, and Igor Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's weapons deliveries to Iran are "balanced and are not destabilizing the region." This was stated at a briefing in Moscow on Friday October 2nd by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department.

Russia makes weapons deliveries to other states in a restrained and responsible manner, led by the principles developed at the London meeting of permanent U.N. Security Council representatives. Yastrezhembskiy was commenting on the amendment passed by the American senate which makes aid to Russia dependent on the cease of Russian-Iranian military cooperation.

In an unofficial conversation with journalists he remarked that weapons deliveries to Iran were being done in accordance with agreements signed by the former Soviet Union. These exports are a secure source of hard currency for Russian industries which are presently not experiencing the best of times.

Moscow Orders Envoys Back to Talks on Abkhazia

LD0210135892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—Russian envoys taking part in the tripartite commission on the settlement in Abkhazia left Sochi for Moscow early on Friday [2 October], but were ordered to return back.

The envoys left Sochi as talks on the settlement were severed on Thursday after fighting between Georgians and Abkhazians flared up.

When the plane with the envoys landed in Rostov-on-Don for refuelling, the delegation received an instruction of the Russian Government to return back to Sochi.

It is believed that new possibilities appeared for the resumption of the talks and for a compromise between the warring sides.

From Sochi the envoys are expected to go to Sukhumi.

Yeltsin Reiterates Adherence to Abkhazia Pacts

OW0310151092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated that he comes out for strict observance of the agreements on settling the conflict in Abkhazia reached in Moscow on September 3 with the participation of Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba. He said that if the agreements are violated, Russia will have to take corresponding measures to protect the interests of the Russians who have found themselves under threat.

The president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that Boris Yeltsin made his position clear during a telephone conversation with Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze on October 3.

On the same day, Boris Yeltsin held a conference involving Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and other members of Russia's Security Council, to discuss measures to prevent the inflow of refugees, end bloodshed and ensure that all the parties concerned observe the internationally recognized human rights.

Troops Remain 'Strictly Neutral' in Abkhazia

OW0310150792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1449 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy-Commander of the Trans-Caucasian Military District Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev announced on Saturday [3 October] that the Russian troops located in the vicinity of the conflict zone in Abkhazia remain "strictly neutral".

He said that the military equipment which is currently at the disposal of the Abkhazian party "must have arrived in Gudauta be sea, because the land border is reliably controlled by Russian frontier guards". Since Friday, the sea, too, has been controlled by Russian frontier guards, he said.

He also noted that on Saturday he had talks with Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua during which the neutrality of the Trans-Caucasian Military District was confirmed.

Grachev Vows To Prevent Georgia From Taking Property

LD0410025992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0012 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow, 4 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry released a statement by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister.

"As has become known from the reports of the Ita-Novosti agency," says the statement, "a declaration adopted by the Georgian State Council on 3 October 1992 instructs the military collegium and the government to take into their possession, in the nearest future, all the equipment, armaments, and property of the Russian Armed Forces stationed on its territory."

"This unilateral decision by the Georgian leadership," the defense minister's statement underlines, "is leading to a crude violation of all earlier accords regarding the allocation to Georgia of its quota of the equipment, armaments, and property of the armed forces of the former USSR. It may provoke a sharp aggravation of the situation and an armed clash with military units of the Russian Armed Forces, to whom I have given the order to prevent the forced appropriation of military and residential facilities under their authority."

In order to prevent unlawful actions against the Russian Armed Forces, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev appealed to the Georgian State Council and military leadership to cancel this decision and to hold bilateral intergovernmental talks on the status of Russian troops stationed on the Georgian territory and on the practical fulfillment of all earlier accords related to the procedure of transferring equipment, armaments, and property within the limits of the defined quotas.

Reportage on Gaydar Visits to Poland, Ukraine

Submits New Proposals on Mutual Debts

LD0210134692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw, 2 Oct—Unexpected amendments to the program of the visit to Poland by Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Federation Government, have brought proposals on a new approach toward the problem of settling mutual debts between the two countries. These were made by the Russian side today during a conversation that took place here between Ye. Gaydar and Hanna Suchocka, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish Republic, and during bilateral talks with others present at which key issues about the state and prospects for Russian-Polish economic cooperation were discussed.

An unscheduled sitting of the joint Russian-Polish commission for trade and economic cooperation, which is to set out the sides' positions on these proposals, has begun work.

During the conversation, the heads of government came out in favor of preserving and continuing to make use of the positive elements which had previously existed in their bilateral economic links. The implementation of obligations with regard to trade deliveries during the current year was considered during the meeting. The necessity for the timely preparation and conclusion of a Russian-Polish trade protocol for 1993 was stressed. At the same time, the sides expressed the opinion that a new long-term trade treaty between the two states needs to be elaborated.

During the talks between the Russian and Polish delegations in full composition, which took place in the building of the Council of Ministers of the Polish Republic, particular attention was paid to making active use of various opportunities in cooperation, including the creation of a Russian-Polish bank aimed at using national currencies for accounting, expanding barter deals, and also developing contacts at a regional level between small and medium-sized businesses from the two countries. The sides agreed that it is necessary to seek mutually acceptable solutions to the problem of mutual debts, but their presence should not hold back the development of trade and economic links between Russia and Poland under the new conditions.

Ye. Gaydar handed H. Suchocka an invitation to visit the Russian Federation, which was accepted with gratitude.

A signing ceremony also took place for a treaty on cross-border cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Polish Republic, an intergovernmental agreement on the encouragement and mutual protection of investments, and an agreement on cooperation between the St. Petersburg region and a number of voivodships in Poland.

The Russian prime minister's visit is of great significance for the Polish Government, H. Suchocka stressed after the signing of the documents. She evaluated the new proposals by the Russian side as "extraordinarily important" and did not exclude the possibility that the heads of government might have to hold repeat talks today, aimed at discussing them.

The main aim of the current visit, according to Ye. Gaydar, is to create a fundamentally new, market-orientated basis for cooperation between Poland and Russia and to restore mutually advantageous cooperation under the new conditions. This will help the situation to be stabilized in both countries.

Says Troops To Withdraw Early

LD0210182692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw October 2 TASS—The agreements reached during the negotiations of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Polish leader Lech Walesa in Moscow, have enabled both states to begin practical solution of problems in bilateral relations, a meeting of visiting Acting Russian Government Head Yegor Gaydar and the Polish president was told here today.

The sides stressed with satisfaction the documents signed during Gaydar's stay in the Polish capital consolidate both countries' striving for the creation of a new legal basis of the Russian-Polish economic relations to correspond to the market conditions.

The meeting touched upon the Russian troops withdrawal from Poland. It was noted the Russian side strictly abides by its commitments. The Polish president was told the withdrawal of the Northern Group of Forces from Poland will be completed ahead of schedule—before the set date of November 15, 1992, to meet the Polish side's wish.

A special attention at the meeting was given to settlement of Russian and Polish mutual debts. Walesa stressed the Polish adherence to the so-called null variant of this problem's solution. New Russian proposals on the issue meet the partners' plans on mutual payment settlement.

The meeting noted the joint statement of the Russian and Polish presidents to denounce totalitarian regime repressions has contributed to the creation of a new climate in mutual relations. It was pointed to the two sides' striving to commemorate Russian and Polish soldiers, other citizens, whose monuments, cemeteries and burial places are located on territory of the two countries.

Walesa confirmed the invitation to Boris Yeltsin to come to Poland on an official visit. He also suggested to nominate his personal representative under the Russian president and establish the same post under the Polish president.

In his words, this will facilitate contacts between the two presidents on important issues.

Leaves Warsaw for Kiev

LD0310070492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0755 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw October 3 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, acting head of government of the Russian Federation, left here for Kiev on Saturday [3 October] morning at the close of his visit here.

While in the Polish capital, Gaydar met with President Lech Walesa, held talks with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and conversed with the speakers of the two chambers of the Polish parliament and representatives of the country's business community.

A number of inter-governmental documents were signed, including a treaty on trans-border cooperation and an agreement on the encouragement and mutual protection of investments. The president of Poland was told that combat units of Russian troops would be withdrawn from Poland earlier than had been previously agreed upon.

An accord on ways to settle mutual financial claims between the Russian Federation and Poland became an important result of the visit. In an ITAR-TASS interview, Gaydar gave a positive appraisal of the visit.

Signs Economic Agreements With Ukraine

LD0310202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow October 3 TASS—The talks in Kiev focused on issues dealing with the settlement of financial and economic relations between Russia and Ukraine, Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Government, told ITAR-TASS today on his return to Moscow after visiting Poland and Ukraine.

As a result of these talks we signed a package of documents aimed to create normal conditions for the forthcoming introduction of Ukrainian monetary unit so that this process would not do any damage to our relations, but on the contrary, would strengthen them, Gaydar said. The two sides concluded a trade and economic agreement for 1993, discussed the progress reached in working out other documents, which are of primary importance for both countries.

Besides, Russia and Ukraine signed a communique on the settlement of the Soviet foreign debt and coordinated their positions on this problem. "It is very important for us in the context of a forthcoming round of talks within the framework of the Paris Club," the Russian premier stressed.

Returns Home, Comments on Talks

LD0310210792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Interview with Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the Russian Government, by an unidentified correspondent in Moscow airport on 3 October; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What are the results of your visit to Poland?

[Gaydar] The most serious results were our talks on settling the numerous mutual property disputes between Russia and Poland. They are indeed quite involved and have built up over several years. The Polish side has raised this question on more than one occasion.

We have just advanced a whole range of new, quite radical proposals aimed at the comprehensive settlement of all our problems. The Polish side reacted on the whole with great interest to these proposals. We agreed to give them several days to discuss them thoroughly and, evidently, a Polish delegation headed by their finance minister will come to us next week for a final discussion on these questions.

It goes without saying that the most substantive thing which was discussed in Kiev was the question of settling financial and economic relations between Russia and Ukraine in connection with the introduction of the Ukrainian karbovanets, which will take place in October. We signed a package of documents aimed at creating a proper basis so that this process not only does not damage our relations but, on the contrary, sets them in good order. This, I think, is our most substantial achievement. Besides this, a trade and economic agreement for 1993 was signed, and we discussed the progress of work on a number of documents which are of utmost importance.

Actually, I must honestly say that we scheduled the talks before the change of government. When it happened, I telephoned the president of Ukraine and suggested postponing the talks, but he very persuasively urged me not to do so, so as not to put off the urgent issues demanding settlement in Russian-Ukrainian relations. Since we agreed that they could not be delayed, we decided to hold the talks today.

Polish Reportage on Gaydar Visit

WA0510145792

For Polish reportage on the visit to Poland by Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, including reports on financial discussions, see the Poland section of the 5 October of the EAST EUROPE Daily Report.

'Red Square' Interviews Kozyrev on Foreign Policy

LD0410020792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1435 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev by Yevgeniy Kozhokin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Commission on Defense Issues; Sovietologist Dmitriy Sayms; and political expert Sergey Blagovolin; moderated by correspondent Sasha Lyubimov; from the "Red Square" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Lyubimov] Andrey Vladimirovich, please tell us, are there any principles below which we will not sink in foreign policy?

[Kozyrev] Well, of course, I think that we will not give up the principles of our own interests, which in nearby foreign countries consists of having good friends, and having a situation that will allow both us here in Russia and our fellow countrymen in these other states to feel normal.

[Lyubimov] Literally a week ago, we discussed the problem of Russian-Estonian relations, and a Foreign Ministry representative said that, yes, we will do everything to defend the rights of Russians and the Russian-speaking population in Estonia, but we were not able to say anything to the people in Estonia who watched us. It is very difficult for them, they are having a bad time. Can we help them now? Can you help them?

[Kozyrev] You know, it is very difficult for people in many of the world's countries. You can draw two conclusions from this: you can say that we will panic, either we will do nothing at all, or we will begin to do things that will make their lives even more unbearable. Let's say, we will begin a war, for example, and our own lives....

[Lyubimov, interrupting] Let's say economic sanctions, and from the point of view that first and foremost they hit the Russian- speaking population, which works in the large factories of Estonia.

[Kozyrev] Absolutely right.

[Lyubimov] What measures do you think there can be without going over the edge, as they say?

[Kozyrev] Ah well, this is already real politics, it isn't politicking, heroic poses, and oversimplified decisions that the opposition is trying to push us toward. It is a search for real answers which, of course, must take into account all the circumstances. Simplest of all is to turn off the oil tap and halt production where the Russian-speaking population are working, but the question arises: what results does this bring? Who have we defended by doing this? Genuine politics is much more complicated, and, first and foremost, it is the art of the possible. Reckoning up the possible variants demands very serious work. But I think regarding Estonia at present, unfortunately the question of sanctions has not been lifted, not am I lifting it for myself. We will consider possible moves, including economic sanctions, since we have the impression that our Estonian colleagues, under pressure from nationalistic circles, are crossing the line at which the patience of the civilized world will be exhausted. We have raised this question at the General Assembly and will raise this question in other places as well.

[Lyubimov] There is a limit?

[Kozyrev] Yes, there is a limit. [passage omitted: Kozhokin says that a Ministry of Foreign Affairs has only limited capabilities within the general context of the country's performance; Lyubimov accuses Western diplomats of double standards, since they used to belabor the USSR with human rights, but are silent over Baltic abuses; Sayms says Western diplomats are guilty of double standards and says U.S. sympathy for the Baltics as small nations is understandable]

[Lyubimov] Now, the most painful relations—inter-Slav ones. What about Ukraine? It is simply impossible, when two Slav peoples live with the feeling.... [changes thought] They are constantly thinking that the people in Moscow are different or that there in Kiev, the people are different from us. Your colleague Mr. Zlenko and you, so to speak, find a significantly better common language with, say, Mr. Bush, than between yourselves.

[Kozyrev] Well, first, we have excellent relations with Zlenko. Second, with all respect, I cannot agree. I would like to see one secretary of state or president who would say that he doesn't aspire to good-neighborly relations, including Cuba. Another thing is that there is this level beyond which dictatorship begins, beyond which the infringement of human rights begins, and we have this limit. Despite the fact—precisely because we are striving for friendly relations with the Baltic states, let's say, and the other CIS states—and there is no alternative to this, because millions of Russians live there and millions of other people who cannot live in confrontation with Russia. Precisely for this reason, we will make representations, and we will insist that these peoples' rights are observed. And when this limit is exceeded, when a dictatorial regime is really established there, then we will switch to a policy of sanctions and, possibly, other, even harsher measures. So the one does not contradict the other. It is a question of aims and means of achieving them.

As far as Western public opinion is concerned, I agree, perhaps. Indeed, the sympathies of Western public opinion, as with the Russian democrats—our sympathies were with the Baltic people whom had struggled for the restoration of historic justice after the collapse of the USSR.

[Lyubimov] It is a double standard. A pragmatic approach.

[Kozyrev] I am, in fact, not very much in agreement with this. You see, we like to criticize our own government or the government of the country in which we live and in this sense....

[Lyubimov, interrupting] Let's criticize the Ukrainians, so as not to criticize ourselves. What about the Crimea? The Crimean republican movement has been banned, and, by the way, the main telephone calls which we received about the upcoming program were on that. I don't see what can be done. It is the same level of rationality that can only be described in terms of psychiatry, in my opinion. Do you agree?

[Kozyrev] Well, I agree that this is a very complex problem. And now I would not like to break into a simplification of this problem here.

[Lyubimov] Let's not.

[Kozyrev] Yes. The main thing is that we are continuing to work with Ukraine on improving our relations and so that the rights of ethnic minorities and the rights of special regions, let's say—and the Crimea, of course, is a special region, with regard to its composition, history, and many other circumstances—so that the rights of these regions are observed and defended as they should be. [passage omitted: Blagovolin, Sayms speak of U.S. foreign policy in the past]

[Sayms] It seems to me that the position of the minister is clear. One can agree or disagree with him. And it is clear that there are different positions in your administration and that this is confusing the West somewhat. But taking account a great power has just collapsed and a new power, which is still seeking its place in the world, has arisen instead of it, it seems to me that it may perhaps be just a bit too severe to criticize oneself and others in your country for the fact that over these past 18 months there has been no clear, well thought-out, and agreed upon concept worked out.

[Kozyrev] That is our absolutism. I apologize—I'm not addressing this to you, but to all stereotypes of our political psychology. In 1917, it was decided that all questions would be decided on the 25th and 26th, while the United States has been around for 200 years and is still making amendments to the Constitution, and there is still discord in the administration and so on. And the human rights of the English-speaking population are far from guaranteed in many countries. The United States has remained the only superpower, as some think, although they themselves recognize that there are two major, major powers, including Russia. So let's not proceed from absolutism, but as far as [words indistinct]

[Lyubimov] [passage omitted] You wrote of the party of war [Partiya Voyny], didn't you?

[Kozyrev] Yes.

[Lyubimov] What is that party? [passage omitted: Lyubimov expands on question]

[Kozyrev] Two isn't a party. If there were three, that would be a party. [passage omitted: Lyubimov exchanges jokes with Kozyrev and other participants]

I don't think that the party of war is present here, therefore our conversation is in the same key.

[Lyubimov] But that is also radicalism.

[Kozyrev] I have to say that the party of war does exist. It exists in the apparatus and there is a danger that it might make a comeback. There is a danger that the old structures will consolidate themselves in a new form. They used to be in the guise of communists. Now they are national patriots, but their main feature is their hostility to the outside world and their simplistic, coercive policies, which in actual fact achieve absolutely nothing. Using force in peacekeeping operations is another reached in any other way—not to punish a neighbor but to encourage more sound forces, for example, in Yugoslavia, to encourage Panic, so that his policy prevails rather than that of extremist militaristic factions. This battle is taking place here as well as abroad, and I agree that the answer to these problems lies in Moscow above all.

But it's another matter, when let's say Poltoranin, Burbulis, Kozyrev, and so on voice different views. Incidentally, that is a rather normal situation.

Poltoranin put forward the following idea: why don't we get together in Okinawa? Incidentally, this is quite an interesting idea, I must say. It is another matter that I have no possibility of voicing such ideas since, in my capacity as minister of foreign affairs, I am more likely to voice the official position.

[Lyubimov] From what you have said, I can draw the following conclusion: in principle, you would like your department to implement a competent foreign political course and for certain other pronouncements to be cleared with you. But given the current system of mutual relations between power structures, by enhancing your influence, you are making yourself vulnerable, as it were, that is, there is the danger of revenge. That is, you cannot implement your line within power structures in a tougher manner. Is it so? Can you? [Kozyrev attempts reply, but Lyubimov continues]

Then perhaps you should step up your activity together with the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to show that, say, the things other leaders of the country, however respected they may be, say occasionally are not quite competent or precise or do not reflect our state's views?

[Kozyrev] You know, the thing is that, in my view, this is self-evident anyway. Take, for instance, that proposal on Okinawa. We did not put it forward officially. This idea belongs to Poltoranin, whom I like and respect very much as my comrade-in-arms, and we share political beliefs, I do not hide this. I am not trying to defend him now because he is a friend and I, therefore, am trying to protect one of our own, so to speak. I am simply saying that he put forward an idea, but we did not put it forward as an official proposal, you see. Neither the president nor myself approved it.

But I am against the building in Smolenskaya Square [Foreign Ministry] and the owner of its head office playing the same role in a democratic Russia as Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko used to play. That is, he was a kind of talking portrait—I respect Andrey Andreyevich, I am simply speaking about that political stereotype—and that was it: nobody else in the country, either in parliament or in newspapers, could have a say. Therefore, I welcome criticism. [passage omitted: a recording of an interview with EEC representative in Moscow on good relations with Russian Foreign Ministry and future cooperation with Russia and other CIS countries; Lyubimov addresses Blagovolin]

[Lyubimov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, well, first of all you supported Serbia in the Yugoslav crisis and then didn't support it. It's said that it was decided at the last moment to—Macedonia—how—well [as heard]—the president went to Bulgaria. Nobody knew about that at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Kozyrev] Well, what do you mean nobody knew? For two months before that I sent a letter to [Greek] Prime Minister Mitsotakis—he combined the post of foreign minister then—that's why I sent him a letter. I sent him a 5-page letter on this question and explained that Russia would be forced in the near future to announce the recognition of Macedonia, without predetermining the name of that country.

[Lyubimov] Well, all right. Aleksandr Vladimirovich! Well—

[Kozyrev, interrupting] What was there unexpected about it then?

[Lyubimov] How can it be that the president fails to meet the minister of economics? And there's a whole list here. Last September—he failed to meet the German minister of finance, in January, he failed to meet Watanabe, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs.

[Kozyrev] Well, he is the president, and they are ministers.

[Lyubimov] Well, I'm just saying—a REUTERS telegram came in—I'm not the one saying this—he didn't take part in the talks in the Far East of which we were seemingly the organizers and pioneers. He didn't meet Samaranch, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee. There was an agreement that he would meet him. The REUTERS agency writes that it is rumored that this is connected with the fact that Yeltsin drinks a lot. Well, that is a telegram from an agency.

[Kozyrev] Well, I would like to have a drink today since it is Saturday [picks up glass as if to drink from it].

[Lyubimov] Well, we only have water on the program, unfortunately.

[Kozyrev] And not on Monday.

[Lyubimov] It's terrible, isn't it?

[Kozyrev] Well, I will now reply to that question now. You realize that you haven't named a single president in the entire list. Presidents—

[Lyubimov, interrupting] So prime ministers can be left aside then?

[Kozyrev] Let me say that if our president was to meet every minister who came here, then what would we ministers do? [passage omitted: Sayms says CIA carried out a study which found that there was no data backing up the accusations that Yeltsin drank so much that he was unable to carry out his duties]

Well, I realize that all that has been asked in order to remind everyone once again—

[Kozhokin, interrupting] We are getting too deeply involved, in my view, in material which is not connected with foreign policy.

[Lyubimov] No, the material is simple—the effect on foreign policy.

[Lyubimov] What does tomorrow hold? What further countries will we recognize the day after tomorrow. This should be discussed in the press, it should be written about in parliament. Every time—and I won't even mention the visit to Japan, we have already discussed this in our program. You understand.

[Kozyrev] By the way, the decision on the visit to Japan, all decisions on the visit to Japan were closely coordinated with parliament, starting with the fact that Yeltsin's letter, the first in which the first signs of recognition that it is no longer a hostile country, on legality and justice and so forth, this letter was taken to Japan by Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov.

[Lyubimov] This was all secret, Andrey Vladimirovich.

[Kozyrev] What secret? It was in all the newspapers.

[Lyubimov] The people don't know this. [passage omitted: Lyubimov asks participants for views on how Russian foreign policy should look in future]

Tell me, what do you think is the main mistake—one you often think about—made during your time as foreign minister? And what conclusions have you drawn from it, from these mistakes. You said that many mistakes have been made.

[Kozyrev] Well, the main mistake... I think in general the correct path was chosen, and the mistakes have been tactical; mistakes are made everyday at a tactical level. I think that the people who argue with us, saying that we do not have a vision, of course, are the people who simply do not want to see this course and whom it doesn't suit. And instead of ... [changes thought] For this really would be treachery, to say directly: No, I want another a course, that is, I want a course toward confrontation with the whole civilized world, say, or toward confrontation with our CIS neighbors. This would be absolute treachery, no one will say it, so it is easier to say, not this course, but another one, so let's look for something else.

Well, tactical mistakes during the implementation of these policies, they are evident: For example, the Lithuanian situation now. Of course, there is non-coordination. Of course, sometimes there is the desire, say, our ambassador or the foreign minister suddenly wants to resolve some problem without consulting the military, say, although we try not to do this. But they hold the information, only they can know how many divisions there are, how many tanks, how many people. Or on the contrary they think that since they are their divisions, their tanks, why should they consult people from the Foreign Ministry or anyone else? We will look into this in our own way, the military way, and the military-technical logic begins to prevail over political logic, which of course is intolerable. And [Russian Defense Minister] Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev and I do not, on the whole, have any disagreements as regards this. But they occur at a working level.

Therefore, our main mistake is that we do not work on the apparat, we do not work on bringing all this into being. [passage omitted: Lyubimov asks Kozhokin how parliament views Kozyrev's activities]

[Lyubimov] You have been watching "Red Square." Goodbye!

Kozyrev Criticizes Landsbergis 'Polemics'

LD0210230192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, the head of Russia's foreign affairs department, has stated that Russia and the Baltic countries are at present considering possible political measures intended to break through the discernible negative tendency in relations.

In this regard, Andrey Kozyrev stressed, concerning Lithuania's position, that it is necessary to tackle problems and not to wage political polemics.

After his meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans, Kozyrev was asked by a journalist about a recent statement by Vytautas Landsbergis, the head of the Lithuanian parliament, to the effect that the Russian Foreign Ministry is waging a campaign in the spirit of the cold war against the Baltic countries. Andrey Kozyrev replied:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] In principle, I treat heads of state with respect and I do not want to enter into polemics with heads of state. However, I am disturbed by the attempt to shift the discussion of these very complex problems to a verbal format that is indeed reminiscent of the cold war. I think that all this can only complicate the process. Unfortunately, this is, I repeat, a simple concession to those nationalist and reactionary forces that are applying pressure on both sides and that are attempting to deflect us into polemics, senseless polemics, instead of letting us tackle real problems. There are real problems concerning the defense of the Russian-speaking population. That is what is important now. [end recording]

Kozyrev on 'Danger' of Upcoming Latvian Elections

OW0210175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitri Voskoboinikov, and Igor Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with a Diplomatic Panorama correspondent, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev acknowledged the danger that up-coming elections in Latvia could be held like Estonian elections were, but noted that Russia "is making every effort to keep this from happening." (Non-Estonian inhabitants of Estonia were not allowed to vote at recent elections.) If Moscow cannot succeed in its attempts, then "our relations will be additionally clouded and the issue of some kind of answering measures, sanctions, will arise," he said.

According to Kozyrev, this is unavoidable since there are some boundaries beyond which a conversation already takes on another tone. He emphasized, however, that Russia was in favor of a constructive dialog with Latvia and wishes to speak not on potential sanctions, but on creating friendly-neighborly relations.

Kozyrev gave an interview to Diplomatic Panorama after finishing the working meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans. Both sides agree that in order to solve the relations problems between the republics a "political impulse" is needed, and the republics have to avoid "dictates from extremist forces." According to Kozyrev, since the August 6th meeting of foreign ministers from Russia and the Baltic states, the countries have "not been able to make a change for the better," and the sides have not taken the slat which was established at the time." Nevertheless, Kozyrev said that the Russian and Latvian governments had agreed "not to allow inertia to dominate." The sides do not plan to give political initiatives to "extremist forces" in either republic to decide such issues as Russian troop removal or observing the rights of non-Latvian residents in this Baltic state.

Russia has expressed its concern to Latvia on human rights limitations in the republic. With regard to troop removal, Kozyrev said that Moscow is in favor of a rapid removal of Russian formations, but at the same time is convinced that this process should happen "in a civilized manner, without excesses." Jurkans did not make any statements to the press, in agreement with the evaluation of negotiations which was presented by Kozyrev.

Foreign Ministry Praises Cosic-Tudjman Talks

LD0210152592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 2 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Oct—"We welcome the start of a direct dialogue between the leaders of the FRY and Croatia," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing today. He said that the meeting between [FRY] President Dobrica Cosic and [Croatian] President Franjo Tudjman in Geneva on 30 September was an important step toward the real normalization of relations between the two countries, which are Russia's friends.

Regarding the specific accords reached in Geneva, the diplomat commented that they were a continuation of the constructive line being pursued by the FRY leadership and that they provided one more reason to raise the issue of easing the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Kuznetsov: Kurils Not Main Obstacle in Japan Ties [ITAR-TASS]

LD0310191592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo October 3 TASS—The long-standing dispute between Moscow and Tokyo over Southern Kuril Islands is by no means the main obstacle on the way to the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, Vladimir Kuznetsov, head of the administration of the Maritime Territory, told ITAR-TASS during his current stay in Tokyo. In the course of his visit to Tokyo he took part in Friday's [2 October] first joint session of the Japanese committee and the Russian Council on Cultural Cooperation between Japan and the Far East regions of the Russian Federation, and met with a number of leaders of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party.

"The territorial problem exists on a certain level of a state policy, and when I hear people say that it directly concerns economic ties and other forms of cooperation, this is not quite correct," Kuznetsov said. "One can reason in different ways, but our difficulties in economic ties are by no means caused by the existing territorial problem. They are brought about, first of all, by unequal levels of economic development, by our permanent plunging from side to side in the legislation dealing with foreign investments, by the unpredictability of the political process, and only after all this, somewhere in the tenth place, by the problem of territories," the head of the administration stressed.

According to Kuznetsov, in the course of his meetings with leaders of some leading factions within the ruling Liberal- Democratic Party, the two sides agreed that "the main thing at present is to utilize rightly the pause which has formed after it was announced about the postponement of Boris Yeltsin's visit." Kuznetsov believes this episode will bring certain corrections to the Japanese position on the issue as well. "I observe today the Japanese side's readiness to think this theme over, reflect and search for various versions. This is most important in the final analysis," the governor said.

Ministry Protests Media 'Insinuations' on Dniester

LD0210134592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1236 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Quotations marks as received]

[Text] Moscow October 2 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry made a statement circulated by the Ministry's press office on Friday [2 October].

The statement reads:

"Some media agencies continue to slander the name of Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army. Lebed was reported to say things and make statements which he never did. 'PROFSOYUZNIYE VESTI' newspaper published an article in its September issue no 21, entitled 'I declare strict neutrality', containing political assessments of the situation in the Dniester region allegedly made by Lebed.

Lebed categorically denied that he had written the article, since he had never met any representative of the newspaper and the interview was a fake.

Political assessments of the situation in the Dniester region, presented by the newspaper, were provocative in character. It was another attempt to destabilise the situation in the region, discredit Russia's peace-keeping efforts and its armed forces, cause mistrust of the 14th Army servicemen and drive a wedge between servicemen and the authorities of the Dniester region.

Insinuations contained in the article have been spread by the media and are being used on both sides of the Dniester River to break fragile agreements which helped achieve peace in the Dniester region.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry is making an official protest against political speculations involving the name of the commander of the 14th Russian Army and calls on the media to reflect the situation in the region displaying a sense of responsibility and an objective and balanced approach," the statement said.

Khasbulatov Receives Austrian Delegation

LD0310212192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Receiving an Austrian parliamentary delegation in the Russian Government House on Thursday [1 October], Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov said he did not think there could be any major social upheavals, much less coups, in Russia in the coming month. The Austrian delegation visiting Russia is led by president of the National Council (lower chamber of parliament), Heinz Fischer.

"It goes without saying that the situation is difficult", the speaker said. Therefore, the production decline should be arrested, first of all in the industries where the bulk of national wealth is created". Khasbulatov stressed that the Russian parliament "supports the most profound and radical reforms, but is against a primitive notion of economic reform and, specifically, of the privatisation".

The speaker of the Russian Parliament described Russia's relations with Austria as "rapidly developing". Fischer, the head of the delegation which arrived in Moscow at the invitation of leaders of the Russian Parliament, agreed. "Our interparliamentary ties should help form a socio-political base for specific agreements between the governments of our two countries in the areas of economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation", Khasbulatov said.

Asked by Fischer to sum up the recent developments in Russia, Khasbulatov said: "I may risk to anger our media again, but I wish to note that inadequate portrayal of the situation and superficial analysis and forecasts made by Russian newspapers and television affect the prestige of the entire Russian leadership—president, parliament, government—and create the impression that the situation in the country is unstable and revolutions are about to erupt". The speaker said that "all this unfavourably impresses the world opinion and erodes the very foundations of the Russian policy, above all of the government and president".

Poltoranin Addresses Opening of OANA Meeting

LD0210190992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The following is the full text of the speech by Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian deputy premier and minister of information and the press, at the opening of the OANA [Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies] Executive Board meeting in Moscow.

Dear Mr. Yasuhiko Inukai [name as received], OANA president, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

I am glad to have an opportunity to welcome representatives of one of the leading international associations of journalists in free democratic Russia. I believe your decision to hold a meeting in Moscow is deeply symbolic and important. A new period began here a year ago. It is here that the Russian people won the victory over its dated fear and the forces of reaction. Irreversible and profound democratic changes began here and started to spread to the territory of the former USSR.

It won't be a overstatement to say that the Russian mass media have played a vast role in the preparation and implementation of these changes. The Russian media enabled readers, listeners and viewers to learn the truth, cleared their minds of the Bolshevist intoxication, strengthened their confidence in justice.

In August last, at a moment critical for the destinies of our country, most journalists remained true to their professional duty, showed real patriotism by supporting the lawful authority. In these days of trial for us, many mass media the world over, also in the Asia-Pacific region, declared in support of Russia, showed loyalty to ideals of freedom. We are deeply grateful to you for this.

The Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, holding a meeting of leaders of its member-organisations in Moscow, will, no doubt, strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation with the media and journalists in Russia, our solidarity and interaction.

The Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies is now a veritable intercontinental information centre which is very effective in advancing the interests of services in the information area. The organisation uniting the majority of countries of the continent expresses, objectively and in every aspect, the collective opinion of peoples of a vast dymanically developing region.

The Russian Government attaches much importance to our mission at OANA, to spreading and diversifying our activity in ensuring a free flow of information at an international and interstate level, through ensuring the freedom of the media and the pluralism of opinions.

We firmly adhere to the principles of the freedom of information expanse. We shall remove every obstacles to it, lifting all restrictions.

The abandoning of the cold war policies by our country had a beneficial effect on the climate in the huge Asia-Pacific region. We come closer to each other as there opened more opportunities for communication and interaction of peoples and countries of our region. Precisely this task was proclaimed by OANA charter. It clearly formulates the goals of the media in shaping national and international public opinion, proceeding from the awareness that we live in a world where everything is interdependent, not in a vacuum.

The new millenium should be ushered in through cooperation among countries, peoples, individuals, for which broad opportunities are opened now. We believe that partnership should be a basis for stableness and durability of a new world order.

Life in Russia is determined by reforms in which priority task is creating a large stratum of property-owners. It is not easy to make a turn to a civilised market in a militarised economy where 80 per cent of plants manufactured arms. During the restructuring of the industry and its orientation to peaceful goals, we shall inevitably undergo an industrial recession and the lowering of the living standards of people. Our purpose is to preserve at the stage the socio-political stability in Russia, not to yield to the ultimatums of revanchists, to make democratic transformations irreversible.

The consolidation of cooperation and interaction with countries of the Commonwealth and with foreign countries and peoples is themost connection. This is why I regard as extremely relevant and timely the theme you defined for the present meeting of the OANA Executive Board. This shows that OANA leaders closely followed the course of world changes and react to them without delay.

The past year was the year of responsible historic decisions for the Russian state. Taking the initial, most difficult steps to the market economy, we hoped for large-scale aid of Western and Eastern countries. Regrettably, not all our hopes have been justified. We have actually had to cope with our problems on our own. But democracy in Russia held out and is gaining momentum.

Instability in Russia may affect the whole world. If national fascism prevails in Russia, nuclear menace will loom over the world again. If democracy and common sense ultimately prevail, people will heave a sigh of relief. We are aware of our lofty responsibility and we shall be striving for democracy with determination.

On behalf of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian Government, I wish your forum great success in implementing important tasks now facing the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies.

Thank you.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Government Restructuring

Text of Decree

LD0210184392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the Structure of Central Bodies of Federal Executive Authority issued by Boris Yeltsin in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] With the objective of creating a rational structure for the central bodies of federal executive authority corresponding to the present-day stage of radical economic reforms, of decentralizing authority, and of providing greater independence for local bodies, inter alia in their puruit of reforms, I decree as follows:

1. The following are to be abolished:

The Russian Federation Ministry of Architecture, Construction, Housing, and Municipal Services;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Industry and the departments that operate under it;

the Committee for the Affairs of Servicemen and Members of Their Families attached to the Government of the Russian Federation and the Committee for the Social Security of Servicemen Attached to the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the aim being to vest their functions in an Interdepartmental Commission for the Social Affairs of Servicemen and Members of their Families, headed by a deputy chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, which is being set up;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technical Policy's Committee for Higher Education, transferring its functions to the appropriate sections in the structure of the central apparat of that ministry, to be headed by a first deputy minister (in addition to the present first deputy minister);

the Russian Federation Ministry of Health's Committee for the Medical Industry, transferring its functions to the appropriate section in the central apparat of that ministry;

the Russian Federation Ministry of Education's Committee for Vocational Training, transferring its functions to the appropriate sections in the structure of the central apparat of that ministry;

the Committee for Social Aid in the Family and to Children of the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population of the Russian Federation, the coordinating committee for invalids under the president of the Russian Federation and the coordinating committee for the family and mother and child under the president of the Russian Federation, transferring their functions to the appropriate subdivisions of the central apparat of the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population of the Russian Federation;

the Committee for the Food and Processing Industry under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, transferring its functions to the appropriate subdivision in the structure of the central apparat of the Agriculture and Food Ministry of the Russian Federation, which is being formed;

the Committees: for electric power; oil refining; petroleum products and fuel; oil industry; machine-building for the fuel and power complex and conversion; economizing power resources and nontraditional forms of energy; investment policy and capital construction; coal industry of the Ministry of Fuel and Power of the Russian Federation, transferring their functions to the appropriate subdivisions in the structure of the central apparat of that ministry;

Prices Committee under the Ministry of the Economy of the Russian Federation;

the Committee for Supporting Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship under the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Management of State Property, transferring its functions to the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Industrial Policy, which is being formed;

the Main Directorate of Foreign Tourism under the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR;

the Committee for Protection of the Economic Interests of the Russian Federation;

the Inspectorate of Currency Supervision under the government of the Russian Federation;

the Federal Service for the Preservation of Cultural Values under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Russian Federation, transferring its functions to the appropriate subdivisions in the structure of the the central apparat of that ministry;

2. To Set Up:

a Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy;

a Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy, a Russian Federation Committee for Machine-Building, a Russian Federation Committee for Defense Industries, a Russian Federation Committee for Chemical and Oil-Chemical Industry;

a Russian Federation Committee for the Affairs of Architecture and Construction;

a Russian Federation Committee for Price Policy;

a Russian Federation Committee for Tourism, which is to deal with issues of foreign and internal tourism;

the Committee of the Russian Federation for Physical Education and Mass Sport;

the Federal Service of Russia for Currency and Export Control.

3. Reorganize:

the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Russian Federation into the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation;

the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation into the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Federation;

the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation into the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of the Russian Federaton. The Russian Federation Government, when elaborating the provisions concerning that ministry, to submit proposals on a Committee for Water Resources of the Russian Federation in view of the requirements of the Federative Treaty;

the State Committee for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and the Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters into the Russian Federation State Committee for Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and the Elimination of the Consequences of Natural Disasters;

the Russian Federation State Committee for Socio-Economic Development of the North into the Russian Federation Committee for Socio-Economic Development of the North;

the State Committee for the Supervision of Safe Working Practices in Industry and Mine Supervision into Russia's Federal Service for Safe Working Practices in Industry and Mine Supervision;

the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety under the president of the Russian Federation into Russia's Federal Service for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety; the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification into the Commiteee of the Russian Federation for Standardization, Metrology, and Certification;

the State Insurance Supervision of the Russian Federation into the Federal Inspectorate for Supervision of Insurance Activities;

the Committee for State Reserves under the Government of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for State Reserves;

the Committee for Geology and and use of Mineral Resources under the government of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Geology and use of Mineral Resources;

the Committee for Cinematography under the government of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Cinematography;

the Committee of the Fishing Industry under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Fishing;

the Committee for Housing and Communal Management of the Ministry of Architecture, Construction, and Housing and Communal Management of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Municipal Management;

the Committee for Information Technology of the Ministry of Communications of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Information Technology;

the Committee for Patents and Trademarks of the Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technical Policy of the Russian Federation and the Higher Inspectorate [attestatsionnyy komitet] Committee under this ministry respectively into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Patents and Trademarks, carrying out the functions of a state patent department, and the Higher Inspectorate Committee of the Russian Federation, functioning in interaction with the Ministry of Science, Higher Education, and Technical Policy of the Russian Federation;

the Committee of Precious Metals and Precious Stones under the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation into the Committee of the Russian Federation for Precious Metals and Precious Stones;

the Committees for Forestry, for Hydrometeorology, and Monitoring of the Environment;

for geodesy and cartography of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation respectively into the Federal Service of Forestry Management of Russia;

the Federal Service of Russia for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of the Environment;

the Federal Service of Geodesy and Cartography of Russia, entrusting the coordination of the activity of these bodies on questions coming under the remit of the Ministry for the Conservation of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation to the minister of the Russian Federation for the conservation of the environment and natural resources;

the Commission for the Use of Airspace and the Management of Air Traffic under the government of the Russian Federation into the Commission for the Regulation of Air Traffic [rosaeronavigatsiya] as an independent subunit (not belonging to the Department of Aerial Transport) of the central administration [apparata] of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation;

the Russian Space Agency under the government of the Russian Federation into the Russian Space Agency;

the Russian Agency of Intellectual Property under the president of the Russian Federation into the Russian Agency of Intellectual Property;

the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation into the Federal Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia;

the State Courier Service attached to the Ministry of Communications of the Russian Federation into the Federal Directorate for Courier Communications functioning as a state institution attached to the Russian Federation Ministry of Communications;

the Main Directorate of Railway Troops attached to the Ministry of Architecture, Construction, and Housing and Municipal Services of the Russian Federation into the Federal Directorate for Railway Troops, functioning as a state institution attached to the Ministry of Railways of the Russian Federation;

the Main Directorate for Special Construction of the Russian Federation into the Federal Directorate for Special Construction, functioning as a state institution attached to the government of the Russian Federation;

the Main Directorate for Medical-Biological and Extreme Problems attached to the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation into the Federal Directorate for Medical-Biological and Extreme Problems, functioning as a state institution attached to the Russian Federation Ministry of Health.

4. To Consider it Necessary to Reorganize:

the State Committee on Anti-Monopoly Policy and Support of the Russian Federation for the New Economic Structures into a State Committee on Anti-Monopoly Policy of the Russian Federation;

the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision into a Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision of the Russian Federation;

the State Tax Service of the Russian Federation into the Russian Federal Tax Service, including within the make-up of its central apparat the Main Directorate for Tax Investigations attached to the Russian Federation State Tax Service as an independent section. To place the functions of the Russian Federation State Tax Service central body on the Russian Federal Tax Service in accordance with existing legislation;

the Committee for Land Reform and Land Resources attached to the government of the Russian Federation into the Committee for Land Reform and Land-Use Measures of the Russian Federation;

the Committee for Archive Affairs attached to the government of the Russian Federation into the Russian State Archive Service.

5. To determine that state bodies come under the central bodies of executive power in accordance with the appendix to this decree.

6. To introduce the office of deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, placing upon him the coordination of matters concerning the agro-industrial complex and the supply of food to the country's population, matters dealt with by state bodies including: the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food;

the Russian Federation Committee for Fisheries;

the Russian Federation Committee for Land Reform and Land-Use Measures;

the Federal Center for Land and Agro-Industrial Reform in Russia.

7. To lay down that the heads of ministries and state committees of the Russian Federation, who are by virtue of their functions members of the Russian Federation Government, coordinate the activity of committees of the Russian Federation, federal services and inspectorates, and Russian agencies dealing with matters relating to their joint remit, in accordance with the provisions governing each of these bodies.

8. The heads of the state administrative bodies that are being abolished are to ensure, within the time frame set by legislation, the completion of measures connected with the elimination under the established procedure of the relevant state administrative bodies of the Russian Federation.

At the same time, the following points should be considered:

The members of the liquidation commissions and their chairmen are appointed by deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Government in accordance with the allocation of functions among them;

Estimates of the cost of maintaining the liquidation commissions are approved by the chairmen of these commissions liaising with the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation.

9. To lay down that until such time as all the organizational measures to abolish and reorganize the state administrative bodies are complete, the heads and other officials of these administative bodies continue to perform their former functions and are responsible for the state of affairs in the spheres of administration for which the abovementioned bodies have responsibility.

10. To put the property of the state administrative bodies that are being abolished or reorganized at the disposal of the Russian Federation Government. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property should:

Take over state property that came under the state administrative bodies that are being abolished or reorganized, including buildings, installations, social and cultural facilities, and monetary and hard currency assets, and submit to the Russian Federation Government within a two-month period proposals for the further use of the aforementioned state property;

Act as legal successor in the capacity of landlord with regard to leases of the property of the central bodies of federal executive power which are being reorganized or abolished and to terminate the aforementioned leases following the procedure laid down in legislation;

Make an inventory of the official buildings and installations that come under the central bodies of federal executive authority and also of facilities in the social and cultural sphere and others under the authority of organizations and institutions, and within two months submit to the Russian Federation Government proposals for their rational use;

The Finance Ministry of the Russian Federation to provide for the allocation of funds to compensate for losses connected with the cessation of contracts for the renting of property under the authority of the central bodies of federal executive power, primarily from an estimate of the expenditure of bodies of state administration that are being abolished or reorganized.

11. The Finance and Labor Ministries of the Russian Federation to determine more precisely the salaries and conditions of material and domestic provision and medical services of employees of the central apparatus of the central bodies of federal executive power and within two weeks submit appropriate proposals to the Russian Federation Government for the preparation of a decree of the president of the Russian Federation.

12. The leaders of the newly-created bodies of state administration to submit to the Russian Federation Government, within a month, drafts of provisions concerning these bodies and proposals for the accomodation of their apparat, as well as proposals, agreed with the Finance and Labor Ministries of the Russian Federation, regarding the numerical strength of the staff of the central apparatus of the aforementioned bodies of state administraiton and expenditure on their maintenance.

To lay down that the provisions concerning the central bodies of federal executive power pending their confirmation are subject to compulsory examination at a session of the collegium of the Russian Federation Government.

In examining and approving the provisions on the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Anti-Monopoly Policy, the Committee of the Russian Federation for Public Health and Epidemological Supervision, the Federal Taxation Service of Russia and the Committee of the Russian Federation on Land Reform and Land Improvement, to coordinate the alteration of the names and the specification of the functions of these bodies according to the procedure envisaged by point 3 of the decision of the Fifth Congress of People's Deputies of the RSFSR "On Legal Back-Up for Economic Reforms."

13. The Justice Ministry of the Russian Federation to submit proposals for bringing the legislation of the Russian Federation into conformity with the present decree.

14. The present decree comes into force from the time of its signing.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

Shumeyko Explains Reorganization

PM0210205592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by V. Kononenko: "Why the Russian Government Is Restructuring Itself Again. First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko Explains President's Decrees"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has already reported that Russian President B. Yeltsin has signed decrees envisaging the reorganization of the structure of state administrative organs. This act was preceded by the work of two representative commissions (the first was headed by A. Shokhin, the second by V. Shumeyko) which analyzed the work of all the ministries and committees and came to the following conclusion: The administrative structure is too cumbersome, its components often duplicate each other, and sometimes they even hinder the reforms.

Under the new structure the former organizational shape of the basic general-economic, functional, intersector, foreign policy, and law enforcement organs, as well as defense and security, are retained and their functions clarified. The functions of the sector state organs have been radically reviewed—they will no longer be able to interfere in enterprises' economic activity as was the case before. Henceforth this will be the business of concerns, corporations, joint-stock, and other companies, which at the same time will observe antimonopoly requirements.

The Prices Committee is to be replaced by the Committee for Prices Policy, which is designed not to determine "what costs how much" but to formulate policy in a given area. The Committee for Supporting Small Businesses and Enterprise under the State Committee for the Management of State Property has been abolished, as have the Committees for Higher Education and Professional Education. Their functions will be transferred to ministries. The Ministry of Industry is to be abolished as a result of the appearance of new economic structures. The State Committee for Industrial Policy will be set up on its base, and four committees will replace its 24 departments.

The Ministry of Architecture, Construction, Housing, and Municipal Services will be replaced by the Committee for Architecture and Construction and the Committee for Municipal Services. Concerns and corporations will assume the functions of the eight committees of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, and the committees of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources are being reorganized into federal services. New committees will also be established—for youth affairs, tourism, physical education, and team sports, among others. A total of 10 of the 35 consultative and coordinating organs that used to exist under the president and the government are being abolished. As are, in addition, the Enterprise Council under the Russian Federation president and the Expert Council under the government premier. The Council of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs under the Russian Federation Government is being formed in their place. As a result of the reorganization, the number of independent state administration organs will be reduced to 69, which is 50 fewer than in the existing structure. At the same time, the number of central apparatus workers will be reduced by 2,500-3,500. There can be no argument about it: The country's administration needs to be restructured. But the question arises: How in the space of just one year of democratic rule was such a cumbersome conglomerate of departments formed? Your IZVESTIYA correspondent met with V. Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, and asked him to answer this question.

[Shumeyko] Today's existing structure was formed eclectically—new ministries and committees were set up to deal with the various urgent problems that cropped up one after another following the disappearance of the USSR. When it gained independence, Russia took over the bulk of the former Union departments—there were over 80 of these—plus 44 Russian departments. When we began to reorganize the administrative system, the number of central organs ran to 137. They frequently operated in parallel and certainly not always in the interests of a specific cause. For example, the task of social protection for servicemen has arisen. In the event there are two corresponding committees—one under the president and the other under the government. One has a staff of 100, the other 70. But do servicemen live any easier as a result of their activity?

Since state ownership of property predominated—97 percent of enterprises—sector agencies and departments were established to deal with it, thereby putting a brake on reforms. We have broken the tip of the administrative-edict iceberg in the economy—the State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, and so on—but at the middle level the old structures remain, even though they appear to have changed.

In gearing itself to the requirements and priorities of economic reform, the government commission proposed a new administrative model—less cumbersome and more suited to the real state of the economy and the Federation Treaty, V. Shumeyko continued. The government will now consist of 40 people—directors of the central departments and, in line with the Constitution, the heads of government of Russia's constituent republics. By eliminating the clusters of committees attached to ministries, we hope that the vertical implementation of policy will improve and that it will prove possible to speed up transformations at the bottom end of the economy.

Let us take, for example, the Ministry of Industry, which has now been abolished. The Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy has been established in its place. No major state can exist without formulating this sort of policy. But the problem was how to implement it without interfering in specific economic activity. The following path seems the logical one to us: Form major financial groups with the help of the government, around which medium and small businesses will multiply. We are talking about so-called trust administration on the government side, operated through controlling stakes in shares. The statute relating to trusts is already ready, and will probably be published next week. The government will have the chance to appoint the trust directors, but not in a subjective way—suggesting that Petrov is better than Sidorov, say—but rather by giving preference to specialists who have proved themselves in competition.

[Kononenko] Vladimir Filippovich, will structural guidelines be proposed for republics, krays, and oblasts?

[Shumeyko] In the course of our work on the new model we received proposals to create two sorts of central administrative organs—federal and republic. Something similar to the old union-republic ministries. God forbid we should return to that model. It is utterly inconsistent with the Federation Treaty and could only aggravate the situation in Russia.

[Kononenko] But won't parliament oppose this decree tooth and nail?

[Shumeyko] The president's decree on the new structure notes that in formulating the clauses on the committees, etc. (this is to take two months) it will be necessary to coordinate them with the Supreme Soviet. During the reorganization four committees are to be renamed—this is required by the nature of their activity, but in the laws they are referred to by their old names. We shall certainly coordinate these questions. However, it would not be sensible to coordinate the entire structure with parliament for two reasons. First, about one-third of the various committees were set up under pressure from deputies' groups and all sorts of lobbies in parliament, mainly for political motives. Experience has shown that many of them are not needed. Second, the executive power structure is the business of that authority alone. For the government to do this is the prerogative of the government.

Commentator Questions Restructuring

MK0310105892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko report under the "Reform" rubric: "All Change in the Russian Government. Again. Why?"]

[Text] The activity of the special government commission under the leadership of First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, which has been in progress for almost the entire past two months, culminated in the signing 30 September of the presidential decree "On the Structure of the Central Organs of Federal Executive Power." The enormous document (seven pages of single-spaced typescript), is made up almost entirely of a list of names of Russian ministries, committees, commissions, federal services, and agencies: Approximately 10 were newly created, 20 abolished, and 30 reorganized. The decree establishes that the reason for all this is the need to "form a rational structure—satisfying the requirements of the present phase of radical economic reforms—of central organs of federal executive power, decentralized power, and greater autonomy for local organs, including in the implementation of the reforms."

Nevertheless, it is very difficult indeed to establish how exactly each of the proposed innovations, in particular, will promote the development of reform. For instance, the abolition of the Russian Federation Government Currency Control Inspectorate, which is taking place concurrently with the formation of the Russian Federal Service for Currency and Export Regulation; or for example, the transfer of the functions of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health Committee for the Medical Industry "to the relevant subdivision of this ministry's central apparatus"; or the sovereignization of the Committee for Prices, which definitely is leaving the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics; or the formation of the Russian Federation Committee for Questions of Architecture and Construction on the ruins of the abolished Russian Federation Ministry of Architecture, Construction, and Housing and Municipal Services.

Some of the points in the decree are simply absurd. Note, for example, that the decision to reestablish an agricultural superdepartment of the State Agro-Industrial Committee-type—an inclination toward which had long been suspected of Boris Yeltsin's administration—was not made. On the other hand, the name change from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Agriculture and Food did occur, for the 15th time no less (since 1917), as long-serving chroniclers of the Russian Government point out.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA observer can only honestly admit that he has not managed to find any clear logic or obvious system in the government's permutation exercises. The logic is elusive, even in those instances when you may initially suspect its presence.

Thus, fairly soon after the radical reorganization of the government in November 1991 and the formation of Yegor Gaydar's cabinet, it became obvious that the competences of the Ministries of Economics and Industry are delimited virtually arbitrarily and the apparatuses of the two departments are constantly duplicating each other's work. The abolition decision hung over the Ministry of Industry for almost six months, but in the end, the authors of the decree decided just to reduce this department's status, reorganizing it into the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy. Not only that, but on the day the decree was signed, several news agencies reported that the fate of the Ministry of Industry still has not been resolved definitively. Minister of Economics Andrey Nechayev, however, reacted with irony to such assumptions.

And yet, is it possible that the plans for the grandiose resettlement of peoples on Staraya Ploshchad and in ministry buildings scattered around the capital represent nothing other than intentions to carry out yet another purge of government personnel which, like every other St. George's day [traditionally a day on which serfs were freed from their commitments and allowed to move from one landowner to another], naturally will result in another expansion of the overall number of staff? Is it possible that it all will boil down to a festival of engraving and stonemasonry? After all, thousands of nameplates and door signs will have to be changed. Perhaps it will all be limited to that, but according to certain assumptions, the "bare bones" of the reform may turn out to be the reproduction of a structure analogous to the hierarchy of union and union-republic departments, as they were called in the times of the USSR, with the sole difference that they now will have to be called federal and federal-republic departments, respectively. Pressure from Russia's autonomous formations and territories long has been actively provoking the central administration to do this.

Government Confers on Reorganizing Ministries

OW0210181992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian First Vice Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko held a working conference on Friday [2 October] with government members. They discussed issues concerning Russian Presidential decrees to reorganize the executive power structure; especially, the problem of finding work for employees from liquidated ministries, state committees and departments. (According to government experts, between 2500 and 3500 people could be cut from state organizations - INTERFAX) In a speech at the meeting, Shumeyko said that the up-coming reorganization of executive power structures should make it impossible for different departments to have the same function, and be strictly in accordance with the demands of the federal treaty regarding decentralization.

Shumeyko Views Draft Decree on Government

OW0510121292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers cannot agree with a number of provisions of the draft decree on government which is to be considered in the parliament in the near future, Vladimir Shumeyko, the first Russian vice premier told journalists. In particular, he noted that the document reserves the right for confirming the structure of the executive power with the Supreme Soviet. According to Shumeyko, "the government itself must define the number of ministries and departments, and the direction of their activity." Shumeyko believes that it is necessary to define the spheres of competence of the representatives and the executive authorities and to exclude and [as received] possibility of intrusion into the prerogatives of each other.

Shumeyko said that experts of the US administration worked out a note for the US President on the results of the negotiations of two Russian vice premiers in Washington. (Shokhin and Shumeyko—INTERFAX). The document declares the unity of the Russian Government in respect to the reform, a hard economic situation of the Russian Federation, but the most interesting to be mentioned - [as received] the document draws a conclusion that it is impossible to exert economic pressure on Russia, and recognizes the necessity of granting to Russia a possibility for realizing the reforms by our own methods but not by those which have been foreseen by the International Monetary Fund", Shumeyko reported.

In response to an INTERFAX correspondent Shumeyko said that "it would be better if the Central Bank of Russia were independent but it is impossible to reach this aim now." "That is why I believe that the Central Bank of Russia must be subordinate to the executive power."

Rutskoy Cancels Working Visit to Chechniya

OW0310151292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Aleksandr Rutskoy's working visit to Chechniya will not take place, the vice-president's secretariat told INTERFAX on Saturday [3 October]. No additional details were given.

The interview given earlier to INTERFAX by Chairman of the Chechen parliament's Commission for Foreign Affairs Yusup Soslanbekov, suggests that in Chechniya Rutskoy was planning to discuss the implementation of the agreement on lifting the economic and military blockade from the Chechen Republic.

Over 400,000 Refugees Arrive in Russia Since USSR Breakup

LD0410130492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0402 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Oct—There are now more than 400,000 refugees on the territory of Russia. This situation has taken shape owing to the disintegration of the former Union and inter-ethnic conflicts, Tatyana Regent, head of the Federal Migration Service of Russia, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The Federal Migration Service was set up in June 1992. In Russia it has already opened six refugee transit reception centers, and there will be more than 40 of them altogether. The Russian Government has handed on to the Migration Service a number of functions which formerly fell within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs: the issuing of passports and exit visas in frontier zones, the registration and deregistration of citizens, the registration of foreign citizens and stateless persons.

The continuing inter-ethnic conflicts are still the main factor contributing to the growing number of resettlers, Tatyana Regent notes. According to her, two-thirds of the migrants have already come from Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, half from Lithuania, Latvia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and approximately 40 percent from Estonia and Moldova [figures as received]. Two-thirds of those who have left these republics are of the so-called Russian speaking population.

A particularly tense situation has taken shape in connection with the forced resettlement of people in the regions of the northern Caucasus and Transcaucasia, in the opinion of Tatyana Regent. The Baltic states are adopting laws restricting the rights of ethnic minorities. She thinks that the Russian Government should pursue a more stringent policy with regard to these countries. The head of the Federal Migration Service believes that the most acceptable form of reciprocal relations among the CIS member countries in the sphere of migration policy would be to conclude of bilateral agreements. She notes that migration has grown substantially from those regions in the far north, Siberia, and the Far East.

Tatyana Regent thinks that new laws are needed which could restrain and control the migration processes in Russia in a civilized form. In particular, the fall session of Russia's Parliament which is currently taking place should adopt laws "on refugees" and on "forced resettlements."

Ethnic German Congress Opts for Emigration

PM0210135792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by I. Chernyak: "The Russian Germans Appear To Have Found Their Own Moses. Or Is He a Susanin? 'Rebirth' Society Seeks Promised Land in Argentina"]

[Text] So it is decided: The Germans from the former USSR have to pack their bags and prepare to leave. Not for the Volga area or Kaliningrad, and not even for the land of their fathers, but for the ends of the earth, distant Argentina. This is what Genrikh Grout, chairman of the German "Wiedergeburt" ("Rebirth") society, said at the society's fifth conference in Moscow—paid for, incidentally, by the German Government. It is difficult not to heed the chairman's views: To the Germans "Wiedergeburt" is something like the CPSU in the former Soviet society," the paper NEUES LEBEN admits.

The leaders of "Wiedergeburt" have arrived at a bleak conclusion: There is no future for the Germans in the CIS. Grout himself believes that five years of demagogic arguments and empty promises by the USSR and Russian leaderships to resolve the German problem have made the ethnic crisis irreversible, and moreover the lives of hundreds of thousands of people are in danger. According to the chairman, unlike Russians and Ukrainians, the Germans have nowhere to run to when faced with complete assimilation or even physical annihilation.

The picture painted by Grout is a disturbing one. Germans from the former Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan are increasingly talking about being harassed by Islamic fundamentalists and about their growing fear of violence. There has already been bloodshed in Chimkent and Tajikistan. Following the Tajik events the Germans seemed to be generally horror-struck and in their appeal to FRG Chancellor H. Kohl they literally pleaded: Evacuate us from this nightmare! They also sent a message to the peoples and governments of Austria, Switzerland, and the Netherlands, again asking them not to leave in the lurch their close relatives in terms of faith, ancestry, and language.

The Germans also describe the situation in five northern oblasts of Kazakhstan as dangerous: "The Cossacks' actions to restore these territories to Russia are on the point of causing an explosion in this region, too. In the event of an armed conflict between Russians and Kazakhs, the Germans are bound to find themselves in the middle and they could be used as a shield by both sides. There is always the possibility that some upstart hetman in North Kazakhstan might declare this territory an autonomous republic, following the example of Smirnov in the Dniester Region, and place the region's inhabitants under arms." For my part I will say that there have been attempts to cause clashes between Germans and Cossacks, but, thank goodness, they have not succeeded. Things are little better in Russia, even in such "safe"—according to official propaganda—areas as the ethnic German areas. Germans cite cases where they have been told to sell their homes cheap, otherwise they will simply be confiscated tomorrow. There was a worldwide—particularly in Germany—ballyhoo over the German areas in the Altay and in Omsk Oblast, but emigration from there has actually increased over the past year. The society's leaders believe that they are having ethnic confrontation forced on them and ethnic discontent in the Kuzbass, Krasnoyarsk Kray, and other regions is being provoked through the local press. In their view, "Wiedergeburt" has fallen into the clutches of the Russian and German state security organs, which have joined forces to wreck the Germans' national liberation movement.

The visit to Moscow by German Government State Secretary Mr. Nimitz did nothing to encourage his compatriots' optimism. On the contrary, it was clear from what the state secretary said that the "wide open gates" for the Russian Germans' entry to their historic homeland, formerly announced by the FRG authorities, have now become a wicket, with a stake jammed up against it on the other side. Obviously, in 1993, all that will remain of the gates will be a narrow crack for the odd lucky person Germany is interested in. So if you have not made it you are too late.

Is Argentina all that is left?

After all the horrors it may seem strange, but the decision to abandon the struggle for statehood and prepare for the Great Migration is not supported by all Germans by any means. "What has your thinking done for people all these years?!"—Kurt Vidmayyer, observer on the German independent central newspaper NEUES LEBEN, launches an attack on the "Wiedergeburt" leaders. "You have spent many years training the masses to run up blind alleys. Emerging from one, they discard their placards to make rags and dash into the next one. What have they decided now: To hell with the Volga, make sails out of the slogans, and sail to Argentina? Was it a deliberate game—first republic, then discrimination, and now emigration?"

"The entire outside world had come to believe that our ambition was to return to the Volga," Vidmayyer laments. "The phlegmatic Russian leaders eventually heeded lamentations and started to turn, albeit slowly and awkwardly, in the direction of the Volga area. Most important, the German leadership has already drawn up a schedule for supplies of all manner of goodies for the 'recreated' Volga German Republic and has started implementing it. The state secretaries now have to report on their achievements and their superiors have to note them down. With a shake and a shudder the flywheel begins turning. Who is now going to stop this empty, lumbering sham? How many years will it be before they wake up and see that sending assistance to the Urals or to the Volga is doing no good? The 'Rebirth' Susanins [hero of Russian people's liberation struggle against Polish invaders in 17th century] sent it in the wrong direction, into the quicksand."

What kind of a land do we have if a split can occur and wrangling break out even among united Russian Germans? To be honest, I do not want to take anyone's side: Fish look for deeper waters and men where the grass is greener—so it was, so it always will be. But where will the millions of Russians flee to who are not wanted in Germany, in Argentina, or in Russia?

Government Adviser Ulyukayev on Chernobyl, Gaydar, Ruble

LD0410095392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (TASS)—The state program for the protection of the Russian population against the consequences of the Chernobyl accident was endorsed by the Russian Government at its regular meeting on Thursday [1 October], Aleksey Ulyukayev, head of the group of Russian Government advisers, told a briefing.

He said that 22 billion rubles [R] in 1991 prices were allocated for the program, which should be implemented before the year 2000. In addition, the cabinet discussed the Russian Government's cooperation with the association of peasant farms and cooperatives of Russia.

Ulyukayev told the briefing that the visit of acting prime minister Yegor Gaydar to Ukraine is postponed until 3 October because he begins his visit to Poland on Thursday. Ulyukayev said the negotiations in Kiev will concentrate on only one problem: Currency relations between Russia and Ukraine as Ukraine is to introduce its own currency.

Ulyukayev also said that the government, jointly with the Central Bank, intends to take certain measures to shore up the ruble, as its rate to the dollar and other foreign currencies is falling. (The ruble rate to the dollar was R309 at the sales at the Moscow Interbank currency exchange on Thursday). He did not specify exactly what measures will be taken.

Report Views Volskiy Plan for Amendments to Reform

PM0210113192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Thirteen-Point Volskiy Program"]

[Text] Russia's industrialists advocate a substantial adjustment to the economic reforms that are being carried out. "Civic Union" intends publishing its own economic program in the near future. The recent speech by Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Businessmen [RSPP], to an expanded session of the union's board could provide insight into the main ideas of that program.

Arkadiy Volskiy stated repeatedly that there is no alternative reform program. The RSPP only wants to amend economic policy. Here is the essence of the adjustments as set out in Volskiy's speech: The RSPP information directorate gave the editorial office a transcript.

After noting the personal and, as the speaker said, purely human courage of the Russian leadership and the country's president for assuming the full burden of responsibility for the implementation of unpopular measures, Volskiy stressed that the crisis situation is continuing to develop. In recent weeks there has been a noticeable desire on the government's part to establish direct links with producers even though the government, in the RSPP president's opinion, is moving toward that slowly, uncertainly, and seemingly under pressure.

Volskiy believes that events in the country might not develop at all the way the government envisages. Unless urgent and quite different measures are taken, there could be economic collapse instead of stabilization. In this connection, Volskiy proposes stepping up the RSPP's activity on the basis of a plan of immediate and strategic actions.

Point One. The transition to the market is not the end but merely the means. Russia needs to switch from a directed economy to a free market economy not for the sake of the market itself but with its help to transform a poor Russia with no rich people into a rich Russia with no poor people. Consequently, the basic condition is to minimize the social defects of the reform.

Point Two. What will extricate Russia from the crisis: the adjustment of the reform or a new model of reform? Volskiy considers the monetarists' initial premises groundless and disagrees with the government's proposed three-stage reform program: "crisis development, restoration of the national economy, economic revival." The destructive processes must be minimized and the Russian economy's potential must not be sacrificed to monetarism. At the same time he believes that the mass attack on the Gaydar government's reform program is having an adverse effect on the transformation of the planned economy into a market one. The laws on the ownership of land and on bankruptcy that are needed do not exist, and the government itself is not giving sufficient incentive to business and production. Thus decisive adjustments are needed.

Point Three. The reorganization of the economic transformations must be based on two fundamental principles. The first is the need to organically combine macroeconomic transformations with the microlevel, that is, with what is happening directly at enterprises. The second is a strictly differentiated approach to the development of the state and nonstate sectors of the economy. According to Volskiy, Russia will take the path of the so-called two-sector economy which exists in such countries as China, for example.

The essence of the new course of the reform is this: Two sectors of the economy—two economic and industrial policies.

Point Four. In the nonstate sector, the green light is given to the creation of enterprise structures.

Point Five. It is necessary, Volskiy believes, to intensify or rather to restore the system of the state regulation of economic development. Only a sensible combination of state regulation of the main national economic proportions with broad independence, initiative, and the material interest of industrialists and businessmen can halt the further collapse of the national economy and mold a socially-oriented market economy. In other words, the plan is to replace the command and administration system by a state regulated economic system with a smooth transition to the market.

Point Six. In the state sector, the strategic task is to separate the financial system of the state and the finances of enterprises.

Point Seven. It is necessary to find a way out of the structural crisis immediately. If we follow the present economic course, in Volskiy's opinion, it will lead to the collapse of the processing industry and an orientation toward the extracting sectors, which will transform Russia into a raw materials producing adjunct of the developed countries. The solution lies in a structural policy aimed at achieving a balance between resources and technology at the new level. The main tasks in this sphere are as follows: support for high technology and vitally important production units; the preservation of scientific, technical, and intellectual potential; the implementation of conversion under state supervision; and support for the vital sectors of the fuel and energy complex, the agro-industrial complex, transport, communications, medicine, and education.

It is also necessary to carry out a detailed inventory of capital assets, Volskiy believes, and create a new mechanism for the management of state property based on the desire of the property owner for a normal level of income. This, in turn, will make it possible to decide which production units to close down and which to support and at what price.

Point Eight. In the privatization sphere, according to the RSPP president, it is necessary to remove the question of tight deadlines for the flotation of major enterprises from the agenda. The percentage of state property in the economy should not be determined in advance. The targeted program "One Hundred Model Examples of Privatization" should be implemented in order to demonstrate the vitality and appeal of denationalization.

Volskiy believes that it is necessary to encourage collective workers' ownership and that the workers themselves should decide whether to create an open or closed type of joint-stock company.

Point Nine. The issue of privatization vouchers, in Volskiy's opinion, could prove to be a great deception of working people unless additional measures are adopted. The voucher issuing process should be extended by two-three years, and the area in which privatization checks can be used should be expanded so that they can be used to pay not only for property acquired but also for important medical services and so forth. When the vouchers reach their expiry date they must be redeemed by the state at their face value plus inflation.

Point Ten. In the sphere of monetary and financial policy, the main task of the day, according to Volskiy, is to prevent hyperinflation. To that end he proposes that prices for energy, transport, and basic foodstuffs be frozen for the next six months. During the transitional period it is also necessary to introduce a progressive tax on unwarranted growth in the labor remuneration fund.

Point Eleven. In Volskiy's opinion, the slump in investments is one of the most dangerous manifestations of the crisis because it leads to the erosion of the nation's assets. To overcome the investments crisis the RSPP president proposes support for business at a state level, the creation of incentives for expanded reproduction, and the establishment of institutions where the population's resources can be accumulated (mortgage banks and special accounts in savings banks).

Point Twelve. In the transitional period it is necessary to ensure the state management of scientific and technical progress using administrative, legislative, and other levers, such as tax concessions and subsidies, in this process.

Point Thirteen. The creation of a single economic space with the corresponding interstate structures is an essential condition for the survival of the Russian economy.

Yavlinskiy on Nizhniy Novgorod Plan, Economy

PM0510094792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 2

[Interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy by correspondent A. Fortunatov in Nizhniy Novgorod; date not given: "Yavlinskiy Has Gone, But His Cause Lives On"]

[Text] The slim brochure prepared by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's Economic and Political Research Center on the results of work in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast—"Economics and Politics in Russia; Nizhniy Novgorod Prologue"—instantly became a best-seller. A more voluminous work will also be published, which will contain comprehensive analysis and a detailed concept of integration in Russia as developed in Nizhniy Novgorod.

Yavlinskiy has now gone. His time in Nizhniy Novgorod is up, and it would be strange to hope that this period could be extended to a symbolic 500 days, say. Times have changed. Moreover, the Nizhniy Novgorod program appears to have taken on a life of its own: Its main tenets have found support in many regions, and the leaders of republics and oblasts belonging to the Greater Volga Association have decided to put it into practice....

Before he left for Moscow, G. Yavlinskiy answered some questions by your correspondent.

[Fortunatov] Grigoriy Alekseyevich, how do you view the main results of your work in Nizhniy Novgorod?

[Yavlinskiy] We have prepared ways of resolving a whole series of problems connected with general Russian trends of worsening crisis. These include local financial policy, social policy, and a program in the industrial sphere.

We have drawn up methods, prepared a whole series of calculations, and made real decisions on many issues which are already being put into practice. In other words, we have created a work front for establishing a market infrastructure. That is the first result.

Second, as a result of cooperation—not only with Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, but also with many other oblasts and republics, primarily those which belong to the Greater Volga Association—we have drawn up various proposals concerning the "new federalism" in Russia and created a concept of "new statehood."

Third, I am very gratified by the feeling that the Nizhniy Novgorod administration and authorities at all levels have fairly thoroughly investigated and assessed the full complexity of the situation that awaits them in the near future.

Forming an efficient market economy in Russia and creating a new state or federation of states is a very lengthy business. Especially as specialists at the Economic and Political Research Center believe that the possibilities for implementing reforms in the form in which they were originally planned have been virtually exhausted. If we do not propose a new path, a path of continuity, which will continue the transformations, then the situation in the country will develop in a very chaotic fashion and problems that many now consider to be unimportant will very rapidly turn into global contradictions.

[Fortunatov] Are you nevertheless satisfied with the results of your work in Nizhniy Novgorod?

[Yavlinskiy] I did not manage to achieve everything of which I had dreamed. It is far easier for me to say how I am dissatisfied. I am dissatisfied with the slowness of it all.

Ideas are slow to be put into practice, work priorities are slow to be defined, and real transformations are slow in coming. We simply do not know whether we will have enough time to respond to all the events that are now causing great alarm. I personally am faced with a dilemma: On the one hand, I am tired of playing the role of Cassandra all the time, constantly frightening, warning, and threatening people. It would be far more pleasant to have something positive to offer. On the other hand, many people upon whom our lives depend unfortunately fail to fully appreciate the severity of the situation in which we now find ourselves. The resulting outlook is tragic. For some reason, many very intelligent and talented people, function like mechanical toys in implementing reforms. You wind them up and they start to move. Then they grind to a halt again. The problem is, when you have a lot of these toys, you have to race against time to get them all working so that life does not come to a full stop.

This has something to do with the fact that our country is very rich, with vast expanses and innumerable resources, and no one feels any danger. The "socially protected"—the officials—are particularly complacent. Many of them simply cannot understand: Yesterday they were living their normal, measured lives, and now, when the reforms have to be put into practice, they are being forced to live quite differently. Why? Yesterday they worked a seven-hour day with two days off. Now they have to work 14 hours a day, sometimes even through the night, and they never get a day off. Let me give you a specific example. When Japan was coming out of the postwar crisis, the average working day in the power apparatus was 14-16 hours. Some 13,000 people kept to this regime across Japan.

But if, in our case, administration of the country or individual regions is conducted on an almost voluntary basis, with no one taking responsibility for anything and everyone philosophizing (a kind of reform club), we should hardly expect good results.

[Fortunatov] What are your political predictions for the immediate future?

[Yavlinskiy] The situation will be roughly as follows: There will be two stages—one large, on which various amusing acts will be constantly performed. The other stage will be unseen, but it is there that the main events will unfold. The bank and the government, and the president and the Supreme Soviet will struggle in the proscenium; they will all struggle with each other. Various characters will flit across the stage. The scenery and "prominent events" like the postponed visit to Japan will constantly change. The upcoming issue of vouchers will really stir things up in the orchestra pit. Everyone will wonder whether to trust them or not, and the government will recommend that people disregard the figure of 10,000, because "in actual fact" it is 200,000....

On the other hand, if we take the worst possible scenario of events, very serious processes of disintegration and chaotic collapse will take place on the main stage. Regional authorities will move ever further away from the central authorities, and the process of power disintegrating in individual territories will begin (by that I mean its executive and representative structure). Perhaps there will be a brief attempt at stabilization outside the economy—not the kind of clowning with which we are now familiar, but a very serious attempt. How long will it last? Not very long at all, relatively speaking. Then movement toward a market economy will continue. Because it is no longer possible to stabilize the situation in the country by methods of force.

Jan-Aug Foreign Trade Statistics

OW0210130292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0907 GMT 2 Oct 92

[From the "Statistical Data" section of the weekly "Trade & Investment" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **Russia's Foreign Trade in January-August 1992 (in thousand tons except as indicated)**

EXPORTS		
	Volume	**Value**
		(mln [million] $)
Iron ores and concentrates	4,640.9	102.9
Coal	5,720.6	245.8
Coke and semi-coke	102.2	6.7
Crude oil	31,679.9	4,021.1
Oil products	11,939.8	1,571.1
Natural gas, bln [billion] cu [cubic] m	57.5	4,762.7
Nitrogenous fertilizers	4,726.6	298.1
Potassium fertilizers	2,477.2	201.5
Timber, 1000 cu m	3,537.7	243.9
Lumber, 1000 cu m	1,514.4	202.7
Plywood, 1000 cu m	100.1	48.1
Woodpulp	188.1	72.7
Newsprint	61.4	23.4
Cotton fabrics, mln m	111.3	52.9
Steel-making iron	946.6	116.0
Ferroalloys	84.2	37.1
Iron and steel (excluding iron, ferroalloys, scrap and waste)	3,183.1	740.1
Unprocessed aluminium	568.4	698.8
Domestic refrigerators, 1000 units	241.2	24.6
TV sets, 1000 units	53.8	4.3
Railway rolling stock	—	70.1
Land transportation vehicles (excluding railway rolling stock)	—	917.8
IMPORTS		
	Volume	Value (mln $)
Frozen meat	255.7	331.1
Butter	4.1	6.9
Fresh potatoes	127.9	17.1
Citrus fruits	29.6	12.0
Fresh apples	64.3	102.9
Coffee	12.7	23.8
Tea	32.0	68.5
Grain	16,687.8	2,418.6
wheat	10,293.4	1,470.4
maize	2,751.1	360.3

Soyabean oil	192.1	108.6
Sunflower oil	149.7	78.8
Sugar (including raw sugar)	2,067.5	553.0
Medicines	—	761.6
Natural silk fabrics, 1000 m	1,643.0	10.0
Cotton fabrics, mln m	13.7	52.0
Fabrics made out of artificial compound fibers, 1000 m	578.2	1.1
Knitted clothes	—	350.2
Textile clothes	—	495.2
Leather footwear, mln pairs	31.0	554.4
Iron and steel (excluding iron, ferroalloys, scrap and waste)	416.8	208.3
Pipes	252.8	218.8
Railway rolling stock	—	677.6
Land transportation vehicles (excluding railway rolling stock)	—	628.3
Furniture	—	52.8

Aircraft Drop Unprimed Bombs in Unnamed Area

PM0210105392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Sep 92 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service report: "No Harm Done"]

[Text] The mass media have carried a report that airmen lost bombs in a region of Russia while performing combat duty. Many fabrications have appeared about this.

What actually happened was the following. On 16 September two small-caliber conventional bombs really did become accidentally detached from an aircraft's external suspension. At the time the aircraft was making a training flight over a sparsely populated area. The bombs did not explode, as they had not been primed. They caused no damage and were found and rendered harmless by aviators. Measures have been taken to rule out similar instances in the future.

Deputies, Defense Ministry Discuss Military Plan

LD0410123492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1049 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Oct (TASS)—The parliament and the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation believe that Russia cannot do without a state program on troops withdrawal from neighboring countries. Part of this program dealing with the border troops was discussed today at a joint session of representatives of a number of Supreme Soviet committees and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

The withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of servicemen from the states that not long ago were within the Soviet Union, proved to be not a simple matter. According to preliminary estimates, the withdrawal of border troops only from Azerbaijan and their provision with housing and other facilities will require approximately 20 billion rubles. Therefore it was decided to withdraw the troops from Azerbaijan as, incidentally, from other states, in a stage-by- stage manner as Azeri border guards will be ready to "seal" all parts of the border with their own forces.

"On the whole, the problem of restationing Russian troops will require stupendous spending. It is obvious that it is impossible to resolve this issue within a year. Therefore, a step-by-step type of solution should be the cornerstone of a state program of the Russian Army's withdrawal from the Commonwealth countries," Valeriy Shuikov, secretary of the Parliamentary Committee for Defense and Security, pointed out.

Major General Aleksandr Tymko, chief of staff of the Russian Border Troops, drew lawmakers' attention of to the necessity of the urgent settlement of the problem of understaffed military units defending Russian borders and common borders of the Commonwealth. The general said that there are border posts manned with only 50 percent of the necessary noncommissioned officers and other ranks, and in some areas even less. The parliamentarians believe it will be possible to surmount these difficulties only if the Russian Supreme Soviet adopts a law of the Russian Federation on compulsory military service, which is now in the final stage of elaboration in the Supreme Soviet.

Specialist on 1957 Nuclear Accident in Urals

OW0110093792 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1945 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Interview with Yevgeniy Georgiyevich Ryzhkov, specialist from the Mayak Production Association, by S. Sergeyev; place, date not given; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] Everyone today knows about the Chernobyl catastrophe. However, nothing was known until recent times about a similar tragedy that occurred exactly 35 years ago in the southern Urals region. This was kept a top secret. However, nuclear scientists all over the world consider the accident on 29 September 1957 to be the most tragic nuclear incident in the history of mankind. [Video shows grassy field, forest, remains of building foundations]

[Sergeyev] This is what the epicenter of the explosion looks like today at the Mayak Chemical Combine, the largest producer of weapons-grade plutonium in the world. On a quiet evening on 29 September 1957, the container in which high concentration radioactive waste was stored exploded at this site. The dosimeter today still shows levels exceeding all acceptable standards.

[Begin recording] [Ryzhkov] The consequences of the 1957 explosion continue to be evident today, and a large area of 16,000 hectares is still unusable. The east Ural reserve has been established here, and research is being conducted. The basic part of the area affected by the 1957 explosion has been returned for agricultural use. In the past 35 years radioactivity has dropped considerably. [Video shows forest, signs warning of radioactivity and forbidding gathering of mushrooms, berries, and grasses]

[Sergeyev] Yevgeniy Georgiyevich, do you yourself remember that day, 29 September 1957?

[Ryzhkov] Yes, I remember it very well. It was a Sunday. A barely discernible pop was heard in the city. We thought it was just a regular explosion at the quarry—there was construction going on everywhere at the time. After about five minutes the telephones began to ring, and it became clear that an accident had occurred at the industrial area, and from Monday morning we were all mobilized for almost round-the-clock work.

You know, reading about how it was all done at Chernobyl, I involuntarily come to the conclusion that then we were somehow able to do it more efficiently, more calmly. There was no panic in the city; there was no mass stampede, as occasionally reported in the mass media today. People were somehow more organized, perhaps more prepared for the elimination of the consequences of this accident, because then, professionals, who had already accumulated certain of working in increased radioactivity conditions, were basically concerned with this. Of course, that accident was largely a result of ignorance of the processes that were involved in the safekeeping of waste, and generally, to the insufficient knowledge of the whole of nuclear technology. The tragedy of 1957, in this our age of glasnost, gave birth to negative attitudes to our production, the nuclear industry in general, and specifically to the nuclear power industry. This, I would say, brings highly discernible moral and economic costs, because it hinders the development of nuclear power. [end recording]

Supreme Soviet

Government Reform Program Hearings Begin

PM0210100792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Article by parliamentary observer Robert Minasov: "Parliamentary Hearings: The Alternatives Contain a Grain of Reason"]

[Text] A series of parliamentary hearings on the program for the deepening of economic reform presented by the government began at the White House 28 September.

The hearings have been organized by the Committee on Questions of the Economic Reform and Property with the active participation of other committees and commissions. A. Chubays, vice president of the government and chairman of the State Committee for Property, took part in this session. The group which drafted the government program was represented by its leader, Sergey Vasilyev, Yevgeniy Saburov, Aleksandr Kalinin, and others.

What has been done in the past three months?

A plan of measures for the second half of the year has been devised.

We did not want, Vasilyev stated, to rework the program in depth until it has been carefully examined by parliament. Now we, as the authors of the program, are being criticized from different sides.

We have taken many of those criticisms into account, Vasilyev said. For example, the lack of a legal basis in the program and the fact that it made no mention of the fate of the social sphere or the system of economic information.

It cannot be said, Vasilyev admitted, that the government program, which has been published and discussed at various conferences and forums, has been greeted with rapturous applause. There has been criticism of the issue of privatization vouchers and the inconsistency of the reform, which, its opponents believe, promises only a further collapse of production and condemns the country to the fate of being nothing but a raw materials producer. There has been criticism of the rigid monetary and credit policy even though, in the speaker's opinion, repudiating it will not help to increase production.

The most important result of the government program is the appearance of alternative options. There are more than 10. They are primarily conceptual in character. There is a grain of reason in almost all the projects, the speaker noted.

Discussion of Foreign Economic Policy

LD0410162892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Hearings on the government's economic program took place today in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Our parliamentary correspondent Nikolay Artemyev has the details.

[Artemyev] These hearings are taking place within the framework of preparations for the debate at the Supreme Soviet on the government's program. I remind you that Yegor Gaydar's address in parliament is planned for 7 October. Throughout the whole of this week the Parliamentary Committee for Economic Reform has been discussing one section or another of the government program. The hearings are taking place with the participation of representatives of the government.

Questions of foreign economic activity were discussed today. Sergey Glazyev, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, spoke about the government's program in this sphere. He said that the government's main idea enshrined in the program is the idea of opening up the economy and of raising its export potential. To this end the corresponding measures of customs and tariff regulation have been planned. The list of warehoused goods and of goods involving restrictive licensing will be reduced. Among the hard currency measures being planned by the government is the compulsory sale by enterprises of 100 percent of their hard currency, at the market rate of course. At present enterprises are compulsorily selling only 50 percent of hard currency, while keeping the remainder in foreign banks, said Sergey Glazyev, which is extremely disadvantageous to Russia.

The first deputy minister of foreign economic relations also said that the government will try not to take new credits, inasmuch as it is already finding it difficult to pay the interest on existing credits.

Official on CIS Economic Relations

OW0210225092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government will develop its economic relations with the CIS member-states on a bilateral basis and view them as a foundation for subsequent multilateral contacts, First Vice-Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Property Vladimir Pokrovskiy said during the parliamentary hearings of the draft programme for the promotion of economic reform.

He described Nazarbayev's proposal on establishing an inter-bank union of the states belonging to the rouble zone as premature, and the demand of Belarus and Uzbekistan for restoring state control over the supplies of materials as an obstacle blocking the reform.

Pokrovskiy said that Russia has signed about 200 different agreements with the CIS states. Half of them deal with economic and social issues, one third—with military and one fifth with organizational and legal matters.

He said that individual states conclude agreements with Russia merely to "conceal their real intentions, because in fact they are not going to implement these agreements," he said.

Official Warns of Confrontation on Integration

LD0210171692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A high-ranking Russian official says confrontation is now underway within the Commonwealth of Independent States between supporters and opponents of further integration by CIS members. The Deputy Chairman of the Government Committee for CIS Cooperation, Vladimir Pokrovskiy, in a speech to parliament said Russia was coming under attack by other CIS countries, including Belarus and Uzbekistan, which demand that Moscow restore the centralized distribution of resources. However the Russian official said this would hamper the pace of reform, calling on other CIS members to rid themselves of the syndrome of younger and elder brothers.

Khasbulatov Denies Attacking Government

LD0210123892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The chairman of Russia's Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, stated in a press interview that he had never tried to confront the government in what it was doing. He said that in reply to some of his critics. On the contrary, he added, he repeatedly gave to the government assistance at the most difficult moments, and it is quite another matter, he went on, that as an economist he expressed views on certain economic policy problems which were different from the stand of the government.

But that does not mean, Khasbulatov stressed, that the parliament wants to corner the government and create a government crisis.

Presidium Discusses Congress Dates, Other Issues

PM0210103792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Sep 92 First Edition p 1

[Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium chaired by R.I. Khasbulatov, Russian Supreme Soviet chairman, was held in the Russian House of the Soviets 28 September.

It considered proposals that a Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies be convened. The intention is to include the following matters on the Congress agenda:

1. The course of economic reform in the Russian Federation.

2. The draft Russian constitution.

3. The election of members of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

4. New elections of members of the Constitutional Court.

The Supreme Soviet has also been instructed to discuss the possibility of convening the Congress in the period 15 December 1992 through 12 January 1993.

In accordance with parliamentary procedure V.F. Shumeyko, government first vice premier, submitted a draft law "On the Council of Ministers—the Russian Government." The Presidium sent the draft law to the Supreme Soviet's committees and commissions. It is intended to examine it at a preliminary session of the Supreme Soviet chambers during the first 10 days of October.

Draft laws "On Amendments to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Criminal Code Linked With the Procedure for Recalculation of Fines" and "On Amendments and Addenda to the RSFSR Criminal Code" (the abolition of the death penalty and the introduction of life imprisonment as an act of clemency) were also submitted.

The Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, the Agreement on the Status of the CIS Economic Court, the Russian-French Treaty, and the Treaty on Accord and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and Canada were sent for Supreme Soviet ratification.

The Presidium approved the activity of the Russian Supreme Soviet parliamentary delegation at the first plenary session of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in Bishkek 15-16 September and the documents adopted there along with the organizational-technical measures to prepare for the assembly's second plenary session in St. Petersburg.

Following a Constitutional Commission report, a resolution was adopted "On the Course of Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation."

The Presidium inaugurated on Russian territory Russian Air Force Day to be celebrated annually on the third Sunday in August.

The session also considered other questions pertaining to Russian state life.

Regional Affairs

Confederation Demands Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD0410233592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1855 GMT 4 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 4 Oct—The organization which not so long ago appeared on the political scene under the name of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus has been renamed the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus [Konfederatsiya Narodov Kavkaza]. This decision was made by the extraordinary congress of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus which has just ended its two days of work in Groznyy. Those taking part in the forum also adopted a number of documents giving an extensive assessment of the sociopolitical situation in the region.

In a final declaration, the congress proposed that the official leaders of the North Caucasus republics "denounce the Russian Federation Treaty as being at variance with the national interests of the peoples of the North Caucasus." Furthermore, all sociopolitical organizations and movements are advised to demand that the leaders of their republics seek real independence; conclude a treaty on political, economic, and cultural cooperation between one another; recognize the independence of Checheniya, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia; and set up joint regional security forces on the basis of national guards.

In the event the leaders of the republics reject these measures, the confederation threatens to organize peaceful actions of mass protest and civil disobedience to demand that the antipopular leadership resign and that elections to republican parliaments be organized ahead of schedule. The extraordinary congress of Caucasian highlanders also demanded that all Russian Federation troops be withdrawn from the region immediately. The first post-congress session of the parliament of what is now the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus is scheduled to be held in two weeks.

As is well known, in August 1989 representatives of a number of sociopolitical movements gathered in Sukhumi and declared the creation of an Assembly of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus. Last November the assembly was turned into a confederation. This group elected its own parliament, formed executive structures, and even set up its own armed formations. With the change in the situation in Abkhazia, the leaders of the confederation from the very beginning condemned the actions of the Georgian side, and sent their volunteers to the aid of the Abkhazians.

Confederation Leader: War With Russia Has Begun

LD0410064792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The situation in Abkhazia is also being discussed at the extraordinary congress of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus in Groznyy. Musa Shanibov, president of the Confederation, delivered a report on the political situation in the region. In his opinion, a second Russian-Caucasian war has begun in the Caucasus. Three Cossacks, three Chechens, and 19 Abkhaz died during the liberation of Gagra on Friday [2 October]. The Georgians lost around 300 people killed and over 100 taken prisoner. That is a report by the Ekspress-Khronika agency.

Kabardino-Balkar Leader on 'Complicated' Situation

LD0410190992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 4 Oct 92

[By special ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Nalchik (northern Caucasus), 4 Oct—The leader of one of the republics of this region in the south of the Russian Federation believes that Russia's policy for the northern Caucasus is "inadequate" for the actual situation in the region, which threatens to become a new "hot spot" on the territory of the former USSR. In a conversation with Russian journalists on 4 October, Valeriy Kokov, president of Kabardino-Balkar, described the situation in the region bordering on Georgia as "complicated" and criticized the policy of Moscow which, according to him, does not understand what is happening in the northern Caucausus and is frequently late in reacting.

At the same time Kokov stressed the pro-Russian orientation of multinational Kabardino-Balkar which, according to him, "is based on the main points of the Federation Treaty."

The president believes that the recent arrest in Nalchik of Yuriy Shanibov, leader of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus, was poorly timed. Shanibov was detained late last week by the Russian procuracy on charges of subversive and terrorist activities. The Confederation decided to send hundreds of volunteers to neighboring Georgia to help Abkhazian units in the savage armed conflict which erupted there in August. Shanibov's arrest sparked an unsanctioned demonstration that continued around the clock for several days in the square outside the House of Soviets.

Although Shanibov has already been set free, the demonstration, which began with demands for his release, is still continuing. The protesters, who vary in number from 70 to 2,000, are now demanding the resignation of the president and parliament and the withdrawal of Russian interior troops from the Republic.

Kokov described the demonstration as an open bid for power by forces unable to accept the outcome of the national presidential election and blamed a "third force" seeking the breakup of the Russian Federation for what has happened.

The president gave assurances that the legitimate authorities are acting to "avoid the use of force, resolve problems through political methods, and bring the situation back to normal."

No Response to Opposition from Kabardino-Balkaria

OW0410145092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday [4 October] at 11.00 the leadership of Kabardino-Balkaria is supposed to give an answer in response to the demands on withdrawal of OMON (riot police), resignation of the government and the Supreme Soviet, and on creation of a coalition government put forward by the Congress of the Kabardinian People (CKP). A member of the CKP, Anatoliy Maksidov, told INTERFAX that this demand was presented to the president of Kabardino-Balkaria, Valeriy Kokov, by the chairman of the Congress, the former USSR people's deputy, Yuriy Kalmykov, but the government has not given any answer yet.

Maksidov emphasized that the Congress of the Kabardinian People does not demand resignation of the president as several participants of the meeting which is going on in front of the House of the Supreme Soviet in Nalchik. [sentence as received] According to Maksidov, the meeting does not demand that the republic must leave Russia. "These messages are being spread by mass media", Maksidov pointed out.

He expressed his concern that the government will not satisfy the demands of the CKP and the meeting will be forcibly dispersed on Sunday. Forces of OMON and militia are concentrated in the House of the Supreme Soviet and near it. Maksidov said that there are approximately 700 people in the square and "more ad more people are coming to the square".

The headquarters of the CKP in Nalchik reported that speaking over the local TV on Saturday evening, the chairman of the committee on legislation of the Kabardino-Balkarian parliament, Yuriy Mairov, declared on the necessity to introduce a state of emergency in the republic again.

Kabardino-Balkar Congress Backs Government

LD0310060192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] At a session late last night, the executive committee of the Congress of the Kabardin People decisively dissociated itself from demonstrating fighters of the national movement who are leading things toward a civil war in Kabardino-Balkaria. During the evening and the night, the workforces of enterprises and rural farms came out in support of the president and government of Kabardino-Balkaria, who are calling for the fighters' actions to be stopped without bloodshed.

Meanwhile, a rally of supporters of the Confederation of Highland Peoples of the Caucasus and fighters of the national movement began at noon in Nalchik, demanding the resignation of the president of Kabardino-Balkaria. By this morning, all the roads and the airport had been unblocked, and national movement pickets had been removed.

An appeal to residents by the Moslem clergy is expected today.

Official Comments on Kabardino-Balkar Disturbances

LD0310223392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Report by correspondent Abazov in Malchik; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Over the past two days, a government group has started to study the sociopolitical situation that has emerged in the Kabardino-Balkar Republic. It is headed by Valeriy Aleksandrovich Tishkov, chairman of the State Commission for Nationalities.

[Begin Tishkov recording] We have come here to state basically that, despite any disagreements and contradictions, the Russian Government quite clearly....[changes thought] the law must be observed, peace must be ensured, and violence must be averted. So far, thank goodness, Russian territory has been saved from mass confrontations and casualties, and the Russian Government will not permit this to happen on the territory of the Russian Federation. [end recording]

Against the background of the euphoric rally, crime has reared its ugly head. The republican Ministry of Internal Affairs personnel are already taking casualties. Three police officers have been seriously injured from the explosion of a criminal's grenade. Despite the efforts of doctors, it proved impossible to save the life of a woman injured during the disturbances on the square, outside the House of Soviets. Kabardino-Balkar internal affairs employees have confiscated a large quantity of firearms and knives. President Kokov has addressed the republic's inhabitants, saying that negotiations with the organizers of the rally have not yielded results, and all responsibility for any further developments lies on their shoulders. [end recording]

Chechen Leader Urges Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD0310225992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Addressing a Congress of the Transcaucasian Peoples in Groznyy, the president of the Chechen Republic, Dzhokhar Dudayev, has supported the Congress's demand for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the northern Caucasus. The congress is discussing ways of bringing closer the former Soviet republics in conditions of growing military confrontation.

Dudayev said the Chechen Republic would be prepared to reach political compromise with Russia if only Russia would respect the Chechen declaration of independence. The Chechen president was skeptical about the idea of parliamentary negotiations. He described the Russian Parliament's stand on bilateral relations as not constructive.

Calls Moscow Leadership 'Source of Evil'

OW0410155692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev, President of the Chechen Republic, has described the Russian leadership as the source of evil and violence in the Caucasus. Russia is incapable of dialogue, he said.

Speaking last evening at a session of the current extraordinary congress of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples in Groznyy, Dudayev qualified Russia's transfer of SU-25 military aircraft to Georgia as an open act of complicity in Georgia's aggression against Abkhazia. He rejected as groundless Moscow's excuses to the effect that such aircraft are manufactured on Georgian territory and Russia "has nothing to do with it."

Dudayev suggested that the Confederation form a group entrusted with making a qualification of the permission given by the leaders of some North Caucasian republics to Russia to send its troops to these republics. He said the group might even pass death sentences on them. "Otherwise we won't be able to get rid of the scourge," Dudayev said. "Unless we become masters of the Caucasus now, we may share the plight of the Muslims of Bosnia and Hercegovina, who are being annihilated now," he said.

Dudayev accused the UN of leaving "weaker nations under the dictatorship of more powerful ones." He said that, if the congress in Groznyy sent its documents to the UN, they would probably be "thrown into the wastepaper basket." He suggested that the Confederation include in one of its documents to be passed by the current congress a clause stating its nonrecognition of the UN, since the organization is a "putrid product of Stalin's efforts and works on the same lines as the Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

The congress is being attended by delegates from political organizations in Checheniya, Adygeya, Abkhazia, Ingushetia, North and South Ossetia, Dagestan, Kabardia, and Circassia, and delegations from the Karachai and Chechen-Akin peoples. A member of the presidium of the milli-mejlis of the Tatar People, Gamir Gibadullin, is also present.

The final documents are to be adopted tonight.

Moscow Official Says Fuel Prices Steady

LD0110201692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Rumors about a two-fold increase of prices for petrol and other oil products in Moscow, which allegedly was to happen on October 1, do not correspond to reality, Aleksander Korolko, head of the price policy department of the Moscow city hall, stated today.

The representative of the city hall informed that traditional Moscow oil suppliers are now trying to sell oil on a contract basis for 10,000 to 13,000 rubles per ton, which dictates a new level of petrol prices—about 30 rubles per liter. The Moscow Government, using available fuel stocks, rejects "such plundering prices" and continues to maintain petrol prices at Moscow filling stations at the level of 13 to 15 rubles per liter of a-92 petrol.

Vera Vasilenko, head of the chief economic department of the "rosnefteprodukt" concern, confirmed the facts of a sharp rise in petrol sale prices. According to Vasilenko, the Ryazan oil- refinery, which satisfies about 12 per cent of Moscow needs in petrol, established a sale price of 26,600 rubles per ton of a-76 petrol and 29,000 rubles per ton of a-93 petrol. The same level of prices is maintained at the Moscow oil-refinery in Kapotnya, which meets about 80 per cent of Moscow needs in fuel. The Leningrad oil- processing plant in Kirishi, which also supplies moscow with oil products, raised prices up to 30,000 rubles per ton of a-76 petrol and 31,000 rubles per ton of a-92 petrol.

Speaking on the oil situation in Moscow, Vasilenko noted that "the maximum prices for petrol at filling stations established by the Moscow Government are obviously artificially lowered and make it unprofitable for oil suppliers to deliver oil to the Russian capital." According to the price committee of the Russian ministry of economics, at present in Pensa and Tula petrol is sold to the population at the price of 20-21 rubles per liter. In the Ulyanovsk region (the Volga region) a liter of a-93 petrol costs about 34 rubles and a-76 petrol - almost 29 rubles. From yesterday the price of one liter of petrol in St. Petersburg was fixed at the level of 24-25 rubles.

The representative of the Moscow city hall said that the Moscow authorities are conducting talks with the Russian government on the necessity to reconsider the new mechanism of price formation for fuel and temporarily fix the upper level of the oil price, at least, at 7,000 rubles per ton. The presidential decree on fuel of september 18, 1992 envisages that owing to a progressive scale of the taxation system, it will be unprofitable for oil producers to raise oil prices too high. However, contrary to the government's expectations, oil producers-monopolists continue to jack up petrol prices, which "already in the near future may bring about a bankruptcy of the industry and a social upheaval in large cities of russia," Aleksander Korolko stressed.

Fuel Prices in Archangel To Increase Four-Fold

LD0210122192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The price of fuel in Archangel will increase four-fold beginning today. The Archangel petroleum base is releasing one liter of A76-brand gasoline to consumers for 25 rubles. The price established for AI93-brand gasoline is 32 rubles per liter. All fuel coupons given out earlier are now invalid.

International Affairs

Russia's Gaydar Visits for Intergovernment Talks

Meets Symonenko; Signs Documents

LD0310233292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The Russian Federation Government delegation arrived in Kiev today. Yegor Gaydar, acting head of the Russian Government, leads the delegation. Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Valentyn Symonenko met the guests at Borispol airport. Official intergovernment talks on regulating credit and financial relations between Russia and Ukraine also took place today.

The meeting was held in a spirit of mutual understanding and efforts to find mutually beneficial ways of settling economic and financial problems. A number of (?important) documents were adopted as a result of the talks. These were signed by Yegor Gaydar for Russia side and Valentyn Symonenko for Ukraine.

Viktor Gerashchenko, acting chairman of the Russian Central Bank, and Vadym Hetman, chairman of the Ukrainian National Bank, signed on documents that will regulate relations between banks.

At the conclusion of the talks we interviewed the delegation leaders.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent, in Russian] What documents have been signed today between the Governments of Ukraine and Russia?

[Unidentified speaker, in Russian] Documents on trade and economic contacts in 1993 have been signed between the Governments of Russia and Ukraine [word indistinct], regulating problems connected with mutual obligations on the eve of the introduction of the Ukrainian national currency, the corresponding intergovernment agreements and agreements between banks.

[Correspondent] How would you assess the results of today's meeting?

[Gaydar] I think the documents allow regulation of a complex of relations between our countries, which is not simple. They create and clear the ground for the normal introduction of the Ukrainian currency and lay the foundation for our new relations. We will still have to do certain things, certain [word indistinct] are being examined, those which one would like to sign as soon as possible, including documents on trade procedure. We agreed to speed up preparatory work on these documents and to sign them in the coming two or three weeks.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what will Ukraine gain from signing today's documents?

[Symonenko] First, we are settling issues surrounding the introduction of our own currency; it is precisely this agreement that will allow us to take specific and real steps in this direction. Second, the work of many industrial enterprises stands behind our decisions; this is precisely what our trade and economic agreement for 1993 is directed at. Its fulfillment will make the solution of many problems possible in 1993. [end recording]

Hopes for Eased Relations

OW0310165392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Ukraine have concluded agreements on trade and economic cooperation, and on mutual commitments in view of the forthcoming introduction of the Ukrainian national monetary unit.

The related agreements were signed in Kiev, Saturday, by Acting Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Yegor Gaydar and Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valentin Symonenko who assumed the duties of Ukraine's acting premier following Vitold Fokin's resignation.

After signing the documents Gaydar told journalists that the agreements will help "normalize uneasy relations" between the two countries, clear away the problems before the introduction of the Ukrainian monetary unit and lay new foundations for Russian-Ukrainian relations.

The introduction of the Ukrainian monetary unit is a way of settling mutual debts and normalizing financial relations between the two states, said Gaydar. It will help shape corresponding exchange rates and normalize the settlement of accounts between Russia and Ukraine.

According to the agreement on trade and economic cooperation Russia and Ukraine will broaden their trade turnover. Russia will increase energy supplies to Ukraine and Ukraine will supply more metal products and agricultural produce to Russia.

Gaydar also said that Russia expressed readiness to make urgent purchases of Ukrainian products which Ukraine had pledged to supply to Russia. Payments will be made in advance which will allow Ukrainian enterprises to pay their debts to Russia. Ukraine will consider this proposal.

He said that the trade and economic agreement should be supplemented with a protocol on mutual supplies with specified quotas for oil and gas supplies.

An agreement on trade regime is being drafted, he said. This agreement is expected to be signed in about three weeks.

Following the talks, Gaydar had a 40-minute meeting with President Kravchuk which dealt with the procedure of repaying debts to western creditors.

Gaydar said after the meeting that so far Russia is the only country which is repaying the debt to Western creditors. He noted that Ukraine has adopted a number of documents aimed at repaying its share of the debt.

Assesses Future of Relations With Kravchuk

LD0510112992 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met with Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar today. During their meeting, they reviewed results of today's talks in the cabinet of ministers, as well as other issues directly related to establishing friendly relations beneficial to both states. Following their meeting, Kravchuk and Gaydar answered journalists' questions on today's talks and other issues. One question dealt with oil and gas deliveries from Russia and prospects for releasing Ukrainian enterprises' accounts on the territory of the federation. Gaydar had the following response:

[Begin recording] [Gaydar] We signed the 1993 trade and economic agreement, which must be supplemented by protocols of mutual deliveries. These will be discussed by our departments over the next few weeks. The issue of quotas on deliveries of [passage indistinct] will also be discussed. Regarding the relations of payments and balancing accounts, the documents we have signed are directed precisely at removing obstacles to settling this problem. We agreed that the main way to resolve this issue is via the introduction of a Ukrainian national currency and transition to normal procedures vis-a-vis interstate relations [word indistinct] of appropriate rates of Ukrainian and Russian currencies....

[Correspondent, interrupting] The normal settlement of accounts.

[Gaydar] Yes, the normal settlement of accounts. However, we agreed on certain [word indistinct] which can be done urgently in order to speed the transfer of funds which Russian enterprises owe to their counterparts in Ukraine. We will try and do it together. We also expressed our readiness to purchase—in a centralized manner—a large number of products which Ukraine is obliged to deliver to Russia by making prepayments in order to allow Ukrainian enterprises to make payments to Russia. Ukraine will accordingly examine this proposition. [end recording]

Our colleagues from Moscow asked President Kravchuk what independence is like for Ukraine and if the situation has become much more complicated since the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] It is true that the breakup of such an enormous empire creates difficulties, and not only for Ukraine. However, we had no future under the old system, while what we have now is fraught with enormous difficulties but does have a future. We know that both the state and people must live through this period. There are similiar difficulties in Russia, because Russia, with everything.... [changes thought] Some say that Russia is on a different plane because it succeeded the former Soviet Union, but it also has to build a state [word indistinct] build. We have to build, too. We must all understand—not only leaders but people from all parts of society—that we have to build the state for the individual, that we have to protect the individual, and that we must protect the world and build good-neighborly relations. I believe we will make the situation easier and more quickly address the tasks that now exist. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Meets Scowcroft, Others in Washington

LD0410221892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] A total of 124 countries have recognized Ukraine, and diplomatic relations have been established with 94 states. This was stated by Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs and head of the Ukrainian delegation at the 47th UN General Assembly, during a news conference at the headquarters of the community of nations held before his visit to the U.S. capital. He briefed journalists on Ukraine's foreign policy, the priorities of which include guaranteeing the sovereignty and safety of the state and also guaranteeing the best conditions for conducting internal economic reforms.

A cornerstone of our state foreign policy is peaceful coexistence, which envisages comprehensively broadening ties with the outside world, said Anatoliy Zlenko.

At the White House, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko met General Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser to the U.S. President; (Edward Hewitt), special assistant to the President for national security; and (John Holden), special assistant for defense policy and arms control. The question of bilateral relations was discussed. They also discussed the activization of U.S. financial, technical, and expert help in the decommissioning and destruction of strategic nuclear weapons still on Ukrainian territory.

Kravchuk Addresses German Media on Ukraine's Role in Europe

LD0210223292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev October 3 TASS—"There will be no valuable Europe without Ukraine," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told German correspondents on Friday.

The correspondents included representatives of leading newspapers, including BERLINER ZEITUNG, DER STANDARD, BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT, WELT AM SOMMTAG, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG and others, the Bavaria Radio and the East German Radio, and magazines DER TAGESSPIEGEL and DER SPIEGEL.

The president said, in particular,

—Ukraine is a European state, it is especially European. Naturally, it cannot exist as a European state without having close relations with Europe.

That is why, its future and its prospects are in close relations with European structures. First steps towards this have been made. Ukraine is a member of the European assembly, and has joined European commissions with a special status.

However, this does not mean it should split from the Commonwealth. Ukraine participates in the CIS created on the scheme of the Belovezhskaya Pushcha and Alma-Ata agreements. In case of an attempt to change the CIS status, Ukraine will have problems. We need to establish agreement relations primarily with Russia.

After we sign a treaty with Russia, all necessary agreements—trade, financial, credit and others—will be put on a solid legal basis on international norms and all issues will be solved through negotiations and discussions without any confrontations. Ukraine firmly keeps to this stand.

Asked to make a list of wishes to the West, Kravchuk said "first of all, I would like to thank the West for its recognition of Ukraine as an independent state. Secondly, I would wish the West to know Ukraine not from newspapers of other states, including Russia, but from Ukraine itself.

"Thirdly, I would like to ask that the assistance that is being rendered and will, possibly, be further rendered to Ukraine should be given as assistance to a separate state and not be connected with other countries.

"And, finally, as for the European West, people there must know —there will be no valuable Europe without Ukraine".

The Ukrainian president said they have broadest relations with Germany. The very geography, nature and history have done so that Ukraine and Germany can be partners and friendly states.

Kravchuk also answered to the questions related to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Ukrainian observation of the non-nuclear state status, the introduction of the Ukrainian currency and the agricultural reforms.

U.S. Security Advisers Arrive; To Meet Defense Minister

LD0410195192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1803 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov—TASS]

[Text] Kiev October 2 TASS—A group of U.S. experts in international security issues arrived in Ukraine on Friday. It is headed by Frank Wisner, U.S. undersecretary of state for international security issues, and includes leading experts on nuclear and space arms, as well as representatives of the U.S. Energy Department, NATO, the CIA.

The visit will last until October 4. The U.S. envoys will hold talks in the Foreign Ministry, will meet Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov and Ukrainian parliamentarians.

The Ukrainian nuclear-free status, disarmament problems and questions of international security will be discussed.

UN Envoy Signs Protocol on Relations With Mauritania

LD0410145192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania was signed in New York by the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador, permanent representative of Ukraine at the United Nations Organization, Viktor Batyuk, and permanent representative of Mauritania at this organization, Mohamed Ould Mohamed Mahmoud.

The document in part reads that Ukraine and Mauritania, in their desire to develop and strengthen friendship and cooperation, decided to establish diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level in line with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of 18 April 1961 and on the basis of the principles registered in the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Appoints Symonenko Acting Prime Minister

AU0210130492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1224 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Ukraine's President Kravchuk has issued an edict. It reads:

In connection with the decree issued by Ukraine's Supreme Soviet on 1 October 1992, I resolve as follows:

To appoint Valentyn Kostyantynovych Symonenko as acting prime minister of Ukraine. The members of Ukraine's cabinet of ministers and the government must continue fulfilling their duties until a new Ukrainian government is formed.

Background on Symonenko's Career

LD0210173592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev October 2 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk appointed Valentin Symonenko acting prime minister on Friday.

Valentin Konstantinovich Symonenko was born in 1940 in the port city of Odessa on the Black Sea. In 1962 he graduated from the Odessa Institute of Engineers and Constructors and worked as an engineer and later as director of a plant.

In 1983 he became chairman of Odessa Executive Committee and was representative of the Ukrainian president in Odessa region from March 1992.

Last July he was appointed first deputy prime minister.

Symonenko is a people's deputy of Ukraine. He is married and has two children.

Fokin Responds to No Confidence Vote; Kravchuk Comments

LD0310003092 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A session of the cabinet of ministers in which Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, participated was held in Kiev on 2 October.

Speaking before those assembled, Vitold Fokin said that it was the last time that the cabinet of ministers would gather in its current form. The parliament had expressed its lack of confidence in him.

The former prime minister stressed that the renewed government had not achieved noticeable results for 10 months. The state of the economy and the people's lives had not improved. There were mistakes and an acute shortage of cadres trained in the new conditions, and strategic uncertainty about the main issue: what are we building, what do we want our state to be like in one, five, or 25 years?

Absence of the clear division of powers was an obstacle too. There were things for which the government could be criticized, but there were no grounds for calling it incompetent, anti-popular, or criminal.

Vitold Fokin called on the government to continue performing its duties honestly and conscientiously.

Leonid Kravchuk, the president of Ukraine, spoke at the session.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] The Supreme Council fulfilled its constitutional right; it did not violate this right. The only thing that I would like is the fulfillment of this right to be in a legal—maybe legal is not the right word—but in accordance with the time frame and norms recognized in the parliament itself.

Therefore, I acknowledge that the resignation and the no confidence vote is the Supreme Council's right but suggest that it would be desirable that it follow the generally accepted procedure, for instance, a discussion of the report by the government and then adoption of such a decision. However, this did not happen because such goal was set by a majority of deputies. This is a pity. It is a pity because the world is watching us.

Today I have already met with journalists. I told them and I am telling you that I have no comment.

The main thing is that the constitution be observed. This is the main thing. One cannot say that it has not been observed. However, the world is watching us, scrutinizing how we behave and what decisions we adopt. It looks at all of us, at the president, the government, and the Supreme Council. We all have to remember this, that we lay the foundation of the life of independent Ukraine and, depending on how we do this today, those who follow us will do it tomorrow.

If today we take some unpleasant actions, our successors, our children, and grandchildren will assimilate such experiences. As far as forcing the government to resign, well, this is possible because unfortunately we cannot say that we accomplished anything that improved the people's lives.

But there is one thing here, it is not only the government's fault. Those who have spoken, the same people who spoke six months ago from the same rostrum of the Supreme Council, understood things this way and now—in a different way for some reason. I do not think that no fault lies with those who create power, those who create the law, and those who fulfill it. [end recording]

Leonid Kravchuk then expressed his confidence that members of the government will not take the decision that they resign as a personal insult and then act in opposition. One has to get used to this, there is no tragedy in this, but one has to do this with honor and conscience, without ambitions and without corporate, party, or other aims. Now we have to think about the future, strengthen the economy, and try to create institutions of power, ministries, and departments responsible for the vital activity and provision of the population with foodstuffs and electricity and to work efficiently, remembering that winter is ahead.

The president said that the present government would perform its duties until the new one is formed. Leonid Kravchuk thanked Vitold Fokin for his work.

Supreme Soviet Considers Kravchuk Report

LD0410221392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] At a 1 October plenary session the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet continued its discussion of President Kravchuk's report on the political and social situation in Ukraine and the fulfillment of the Supreme Soviet resolutions of 7 February and 7 July of this year.

The people's deputies said that citizens of our young, independent state expect from the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the government an answer to the question: What is happening and where we are going? Indeed, as one of the deputies noted, salaries have risen 10-fold and prices have gone up 50-fold, but fewer and fewer goods are being produced. The deputies were also critical of their own activities in the parliament. The question of whether to dismiss the whole cabinet of ministers in connection with the retirement of the prime minister or to leave the government with its current composition was discussed.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk made concluding remarks.

The session approved a resolution which particularly covers the following: taking into consideration the report of President Kravchuk; agreeing with the president's proposal on the resignation of Prime Minister Fokin in connection with his retirement; recommending to the president that he charge one of the first deputy prime ministers with the duties of prime minister and later, together with the newly elected prime minister, submitting to the Supreme Soviet proposals on the new Cabinet of Ministers. The session also considered the question of the head of the antimonopoly committee. The deputies appointed (Oleksandr Zavada) to this post.

The session will continue its work in plenary sessions today.

Defense Minister Rules Out Use of Strategic Nuclear Forces

LD0210192892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1835 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 2 Oct—Strategic nuclear forces in Ukraine are under government control, which rules out their use from anywhere on the republic's territory. This was stated today by Ukraine's Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov at a news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. He noted that the Ukrainian military doctrine, the draft of which has been submitted for study by parliament, is of an exclusively defensive nature. Its principles are built on the absence of extraterritorial claims, on the nonuse of force in contentious issues, and on good-neighborly relations with other countries. Military districts have been reshaped, on the basis of which two operational commands have been organized, the reduction of conventional armed forces has begun, and monitoring the safekeeping of weapons and other military property has intensified. Morozov noted that the sale of Black Sea Fleet property is continuing. Without the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's sanction, stores of weapons, several ships from the support fleet, and a number of military installations with the plots of land they occupied have been sold. There is continuing trade in petroleum products, foodstuffs, and material property. In this connection, the minister said, a number of pieces of evidence have been passed on to the Ukrainian procuracy general.

Supreme Council Concludes Session; To Resume 13 Oct

LD0410152392 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Another week of plenary sittings ended at the session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine today. Here is a report from our parliamentary correspondent.

The morning plenary session started with the second reading of the draft law on frontier posts. Deputy Pylypchuk, the chairman of the Commission for the Economic Reform and Management of the National Economy, delivered a report on this draft law. After a paragraph by paragraph discussion, a vote passed the law without changes; the resolution enacting the law was also approved.

This was followed by a discussion of the draft law on assisting social structures and the development of Ukrainian youth, as well as of a declaration of general principles of state policy on Ukrainian youth. Borzov, the minister for youth and sport, gave a report. Deputy Matviyenko, chairman of the Youth Commission, also spoke. Then [word indistinct] there were quite a few questions and the discussion of documents proposed. The draft law and the declaration were adopted by deputies after the first reading.

After the recess, Supreme Council Chairman Plyushch suggested that the deputies set a time limit and an agenda for the session's work. It was decided that the plenary session would continue beginning 13 October. The range of issues to be submitted to the session must be presented to standing committees next week.

The second reading of the draft law on information was next on the agenda. It was presented by Deputy Spys, chairman of the Commission for Glasnost and Mass Media. Paragraph by paragraph discussion of this law ended in its adoption. The resolution enacting it was also approved.

The resolution on indexation of the working capital of enterprises of the Ukrainian Society of the Blind and the Ukrainian Society of the Deaf was the last legislative act approved today by the deputies.

Today's plenary session concluded with a discussion of miscellaneous issues.

Political Groups Form Opposition Bloc

LD0510140292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 5 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk October 5 TASS—The Ukrainian Civic Congress, an inter-regional movement uniting political forces in opposition to the present authorities of the republic, has ended here. It was attended by delegates from 18 regions. The congress elected a coordination council, which includes representatives from different parties and public movements. They adopted resolutions "On the draft of the Ukrainian constitution" and "On the Ukrainian law on public associations".

The first resolution stresses, among other things, that the "draft constitution is drawn up in an anti-democratic spirit of absolute inacceptance of elective bodies. It envisages, in fact, the liquidation of regional self-government and sharp curtailment of local self-government. This draft cannot be recommended for adoption to the Supreme Soviet. The basic principles of the new constitution must be determined by an all-Ukrainian congress of people's councils of all levels".

The civic congress believes, the document notes, that the draft constitution must reflect the following principles: priority of human rights in all spheres of public life, federative structure of the republic with genuine regional and local self-government, parliamentary form of rule, introduction of two official language—Ukrainian and Russian.

"The law on public associations, adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, bans the formation of regional political organisations," the second resolution says. The Ukrainian Civic Congress believes this provision of the law has no analogies in other states. Moreover, it contradicts article 20th of the Human Rights Declaration and is a disturbing sign, showing that Ukraine is embarking upon the road of curtailing democracy and establishing a rigid centralised totalitarian regime.

The Civic Congress demanded immediate amendments to this law so as to bring it in line with accepted international standards.

Ministry Stages Military Exercise in Lvov, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts

AU0510135892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] A command and staff military training exercise under the auspices of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense was conducted on the territory of Lvov and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts. Its main purpose was to improve the efficiency and field skills of headquarters and administration. The training was conducted with the limited involvement of the Ciscarpathian Military District's personnel and combat technology.

President Approves Law on Patent Protection

AU0210131392 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Sep 92 p 3

[Edict on Provisional Regulations for Legal Protection of Industrial Property Facilities and of Innovators' Proposals in Ukraine issued by President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev on 18 September]

[Text] In order to ensure the legal protection of industrial property facilities and innovators' proposals and to ensure the efficient functioning of a single patent system in Ukraine, and in accordance with item 7-4 of Article 114-5 of Ukraine's Constitution, I resolve as follows:

To approve the Provisional Regulations on the Legal Protection of Industrial Property Facilities and of Innovators' Proposals in Ukraine.

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine

[Issued in] Kiev, 18 September 1992

Odessa Experiences Rifts Among Nationalities

LD0310181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0707 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shwartsman]

[Text] Odessa October 1 TASS—Although Russian-Ukrainian disagreements over the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimean Peninsula have somewhat subsided of late, rifts are now and then emerging in various parts of Ukraine and have now reached the city of Odessa, which always stayed neutral in the dispute.

Odessans, who comprise a mixture of nationalities as they live in a major port city, were never concerned about their ethnic origin. "We want that 'resident of Odessa' is written in our passports instead of nationality", they used to say.

However, the Russian community in the city which happily communicates both in Russian and Ukrainian, sent a protest to the Ukrainian Parliament against a hasty campaign of rubberstamping Ukrainian citizenship in passports of Odessa residents.

The statement of the "Rus" cultural society published by the "ODESSA VESTNIK" newspaper on Thursday protests against the split of the people into indigenous population and ethnic minorities and demands that the Russian language becomes the second state one in Ukraine. It also urges authorities to conclude treaties on double citizenship with other Commonwealth states, and with Russia in particular.

Another rift emerged recently between Kiev and the Crimea after Ukrainian Culture Minister Larisa Khorolets visited the city of Yalta. She told local authorities her ministry plans to take over an ancient and recently restored mansion in Yalta which houses a museum of prerevolutionary history of the city.

The minister said a cultural centre devoted to famous Ukrainian poetesse Lesi Ukraininka will be opened in the mansion.

However, the director of the museum sees no grounds why Kiev should take over a mansion belonging to the Crimea.

Cultural rifts are not the only ones. Russia introduced first customs checkpoints on the border with Ukraine. Some 40 of them opened in the Rostov-on-Don region on highways, railways and in airports. Traffic police helps customs officers in checking goods crossing the border between the two major former Soviet republics.

Customs control on the border was introduced by a corresponding decree of the Russian president.

Interview With President Kravchuk on Goals, Programs

PM0510113392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Oct 92 First Edition p 7

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by Kira Vladina in Kiev in September; under the "Portraits of Commonwealth Leaders" rubric: "Leonid Kravchuk: I Do Not Want To Develop Ukraine at Someone Else's Expense"]

[Text] Recently we used to speak of personalities in politics with a host of reservations as if afraid of accidentally succumbing to the "cult" sin. In actual fact our fear was obviously due to the following quite natural reason: the lack of personalities in our politics in the true, precise sense of the word, personalities who take responsibility for themselves and their actions and do not hide behind a veil of "collegiality." The sharp increase in political life in the former USSR has brought to the fore people whose names personify the new states' political aspirations, a specific style of relations, a kind of image. With some oversimplification one can say: Russia is Yeltsin, Kazakhstan is Nazarbayev, Belarus is Shushkevich... The interest of our readers is therefore understandable when they ask us to speak about the leaders of the CIS. In response to numerous requests the editorial office is initiating a "Portraits of Commonwealth Leaders" rubric. Kira Vladina, a well-known journalist, who has won international awards and prizes for portraying prominent personalities, agreed to take charge of it. Her first conversation is with the Ukrainian president.

I am back in my native Kiev. The transport strike prevents me from delighting in the patches of sunlight filtering through the treetops. I look at my beloved city anew; I wander through its neglected streets and sense increasingly clearly a hint of provincialism—both in the posters and in the sluggishness of passersby. Are these really signs of freedom? Signs of a new state? There are Moscow prices in the stores and occasionally our prices are even higher than prices in Moscow. But the authorities have rid the people of Kiev of the "interlopers" who infiltrated the market, throwing citizens into disarray and emptying their already meager purses. In the last six months the standard of living has fallen so dramatically that I had difficulty holding back my emotions. However, people's faces indicate weariness and grief rather than indignation. I saw no sign of a sense of doom—so, they have not lost heart. These impressions accompanied me en route to my visit with the Ukrainian president.

[Vladina] Leonid Makarovich, it has been six months since I interviewed you. That is a long time in our turbulent era. What worries and distresses you?

[Kravchuk] That's quite enough time to make major generalizations and assessments and draw conclusions... But it is very little time for a normal life process. Man has become the most important figure. People have come to feel themselves to be the owners of the state. In August we celebrated the anniversary of independence. Never before have I seen people with faces and eyes like that. With such confidence in themselves. Man has become the master. Do you understand that? In the most difficult of conditions! People don't have to ask anyone how to live, how to work, or how to celebrate. They have come to realize that you do not need to rely on the state when you are tackling problems of the economy, but that you can resolve them yourself.

[Vladina] That's all very well. But tell me how you have managed in such favorable conditions to "emulate" Russia's standard of living in such a short period. Just six months ago life in Ukraine was four or five times better than in Russia. But now you have drawn level with Russia.

[Kravchuk] Yes, you're right to say that. There is a problem here. It gives me no rest. But this is not because our work has suddenly become worse. Nothing of the sort! I have the impression that we are unable to deal with freedom in the interests of a cause. But nowhere in the world has a new state been formed with ease straightaway.

[Vladina] Have Gaydar's reforms "helped" you in this?

[Kravchuk] Well, I cannot blame Gaydar and Russia for everything. Although let us be frank and say that Russia's actions have not been coordinated with those of other states. Nor are they being coordinated today! However, we are still living in the ruble zone and within a common system although we are separated by state borders. But it is not as simple to separate economically as it is politically. You elect a parliament, elect a president, and set up a border. There you have a state. But the economy has no borders. It is an international matter. Labor, the economy, and finances are all linked. However I do not want to shift all the blame onto anyone and say that it's nothing to do with us... We have blemishes of our own... I don't want to appear prophetic, but what I said a year ago has been borne out: Last December I said that there cannot be unified strategic forces. If strategic forces are on a state's territory, the state is bound to be involved in their future. Now Shaposhnikov has confirmed this and said that the strategic forces have to belong to a state. I put the following question to Yeltsin: "Boris Nikolayevich, will you set up your own armed forces?—"Absolutely not, we..." he replied.

Six months later Russia set up its own armed forces. The point is that the logic of political struggle and forming a state is bound to be like that: If you have a state, it must have the attributes of a state. If it does not have them, it isn't a state.

[Vladina] Whether a president is good is determined by his people's lives. What do you think about that? How does your opinion differ from your people's views? Is that a nasty question?

[Kravchuk] Not at all, it is very likely a fair one. Of course, if I could say that our people lead a good life today, that would be a supreme testimony to our independence, our statehood, and our leadership.

[Vladina] You could award yourself a high mark?

[Kravchuk] In a year of independence the people cannot lead a better life than they did prior to this while destroying all the old elements. Tell me: Was the life that we had before worthy of man?

[Vladina] Of course it wasn't, if you are referring to human dignity and human rights.

[Kravchuk] There you go, there was no human dignity, no sense of ownership, and no real freedom. Of course, not everyone can cope with it because freedom is like the bends: First, you had nothing, then you were given everything, and you don't know what to do. People with that knowledge stand to gain from freedom. Take Turkey—it is cited as an example of a country that has rapidly overcome its economic problems—in 10 years. We would like to do that in just a year. However that is impossible! The main question is this: Since we do not have our own energy sources, we are looking for ties with Russia with a view to finding a solution to these questions! Some 10 million tonnes of grain have already been procured this year, that is enough grain for us for all eventualities, so we will not be buying grain this year! This is the first time in the entire history of Soviet rule that Ukraine will not be buying grain! It is, after all, shameful for Ukraine to buy grain given that it has this kind of land and people!

[Vladina] What is your attitude toward the opposition? Hasn't your own Yeltsin appeared, as happened under Gorbachev? How will your relations with him develop? Don't you think that Chernovil spells doom for great Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] My view is that an opposition is a normal phenomenon in a civilized state.

[Vladina] Is that what you've become now?

[Kravchuk] Not yet. Nevertheless we should not be afraid of the opposition. But the following question does arise: What aims are the opposition pursuing? I ask them: Do you oppose state independence? "No," they say. I don't either. Are you in favor of forming your own armed forces, your own economy? "Yes," they say. We favor this too. So we do not disagree on the essence of forming a state. But it is the question of who heads the state on which there is opposition; it is not a question of essence and problems pertaining to development, but of personalities. That is the point. Are there former partyocrat officials everywhere? First, they are not everywhere. Second, where are you to get other people from? Can you take a man off the streets today and make him a minister? Or the president's representative? I was offered a teacher. Someone with no knowledge of "debit and credit!" Is he to become the president's representative! And represent the executive! That is, property, money, the economy, social issues, everything... This man should at least have basic notions and skills. When the October revolution won victory, a seaman was placed at the head of a bank. Then we were forced to turn to the old bourgeois "specialists."

[Vladina] Nevertheless Kravchuk worked on the Central Committee apparatus before! And in the past that was a highly professional structure. You did not address rallies as everyone does today, but you worked, and there was order too. Now the work is worse, everything has collapsed, even the hotel in which I am now living...

[Kravchuk] No, let us return to the opposition. I said at the Congress where all Ukrainians assembled: "Today Vyacheslav Maksimovich Chernovil is preventing us from building a Ukrainian state, I am convinced of that. Because you can go so far in the fight for power that it is then very difficult to get out of that situation, and that will have an adverse effect on the people's position." As for "spelling doom," I don't agree. That is the nature of Vyacheslav Maksimovich—his hard life, spending time in jail—that's not easy! Life has brought him to that understanding, that world outlook. He is bound to be like that. I cannot accuse him of wishing Ukraine ill. Not at all. Although his actions today are harmful owing to the disproportion in the alignment of political forces. They are objectively harmful, not because he wants to harm Ukraine.

[Vladina] Is Ukraine not threatened by a split between west and east, and if there is that danger what can you do to prevent this tragedy for a great state?

[Kravchuk] That danger does not exist today. I have just come back from Lvov. I was attending the reinterment of Iosif the Blind. [Kravchuk ends]

...in St. George's Cathedral the congregation's eyes were fixed on the Ukrainian president... Their faces seemed to betray a question which was put to him at a press conference after the service: "Can the president be such a godless heathen that he did not cross himself once in church?"

Kravchuk replied that a man has to come to God not in a public square and not even in church. A man comes to God through the experience of his own soul, through overcoming himself if he is an unbeliever. A man must come to God alone. If you have come to God on your own only then can you cross yourself. And if you do that for reasons of populism, if after many years of living without God a man appears in front of people and crosses himself just to show that he believes in God, can they really believe in him...?

[Kravchuk] The people I met in Lvov said one and the same thing: We support the president, we support his policy. [Kravchuk ends]

I recalled my meetings in Kiev with people of various professions, ages, and nationalities. The president has his supporters and detractors. Some people really criticize him. Now there is nothing but blanket criticism of the authorities. It is striking that even the malicious critics do not see anyone else as president!

[Vladina] You and Chernovil support the revival of Ukraine as a nation. Outwardly you have many similarities. What is the difference in your understanding of the Ukrainian nation and nationality?

[Kravchuk] The Ukrainian nation is being formed now that we have formed our state. Representatives of all the people living in Ukraine will belong to it—Russians, Jews, Poles... The main concept will be that of the citizen of Ukraine! That is that point.

[Vladina] Do you want to create a civilized state? For example, in America there are neither Jews nor Chinese. They are all Americans there.

[Kravchuk] We must build everything according to the principle of citizenship without dividing people into ethnic groups. That is our position, that is what we are moving toward. As for the characteristic features of Chernovil's position, he emphasizes the national element exclusively... Not the civic. I believe that in a multinational state such a policy could lead to confrontation. History confirms that.

[Vladina] So this is the rebirth of fascism!

[Kravchuk] The idea of citizenship is not mere words. Look: our prime minister is Russian, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet is Russian, the defense minister is Russian, the general prosecutor is Russian. Thus we do not make nationality paramount. In Vinnitsa they have elected a Jew as mayor for the first time. Russian speakers constitute 22 percent of the population and Russians in the leadership represent 26-27 percent. When I was in Dneprodzerzhinsk the director of the metallurgical plant told me how he operates. He is a real fanatic, a man most devoted to reshaping our entire economic organism. He said: I am Russian... I answered him: What does it matter? Do you think that if a Ukrainian was working here he'd be sleeping on the job?

[Vladina] Where are you mainly looking for partners now—in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, or the CIS?

[Kravchuk] I would say everywhere! I mean that sincerely, believe me. Take Dagomys. The main point of that meeting was not just to resolve the question of the Black Sea Fleet but to discuss a large-scale treaty. We concluded a number of agreements on economic problems, including banking agreements. This is all difficult work but we are seeking partners everywhere. First and foremost in Russia. You know, supposing there had been a miracle and Russia had genuinely wanted Ukraine to be independent! Then life in both Russia and Ukraine would have been ten times better. Believe me. But does Russia want that? It does not! There is no desire for Ukraine to be independent, Russia does not want to build interstate relations on equal terms. As partners! That is the main question today! Ukraine is exclusively a European state. Given its advantageous geopolitical and geostrategic position, it cannot but move toward Europe. But Ukraine's path toward Europe does not mean splitting from other states.

[Vladina] There have been many different comments about your latest meeting with Yeltsin. What is the reason for this improvement? Perhaps common difficulties with the old nomenklatura, or with your own parliaments, or the national radicals? What prompted you to embrace one another right now?

[Kravchuk] Well, believe me, the simplest answer is life itself. You can understand us: A great people and a great land which has never had a state of its own. That is incomprehensible to the Russians. Today in Russia the government is changing, but do you think that Russia is losing its independence? Not on your life. It cannot lose it. A vast state cannot lose independence. Because everything stemmed from that independence. Everyone lived under it. And stood firm. Like an aircraft carrier, it kept everyone within it. And to a certain extent administered everyone. What if there is a political crisis in our country? First of all that means a threat to independence. Various fronts would come together and say: Lads, let's save Ukraine. People would come, as they came from abroad in 1918, and stifle our independence. They would have their own people in place... That is how we differ. That is why the euphoria was short-lived. Mine, too. Life is a story, and a very complicated one, too. You have to resolve concrete questions. Both Yeltsin and I understood that we can resolve them if we have good relations. Although we were never enemies.

[Vladina] Do you ever have the nightmare that you have done something wrong? And you wished it had never happened?

[Kravchuk] Of course. More than once. Sometimes I finish my working day, I go home, and I think: How much more can I do?

[Vladina] Why do you think Ukrainians drink as much as Russians? Is it because they lead hard lives or is it national tradition?

[Kravchuk] Well, on the whole they have been taught to drink. After all, 35 percent of budget revenue comes from vodka. It was produced in unlimited quantities. But there is another reason. There are people who work terribly hard. Take the miner—when he comes out of the pit he is monumentally exhausted. They told me that a mug of beer for him is just a minor weakness...

[Vladina] Do you think that you will go down in history as a liberator and creator of a new independent state or as the destroyer of the mighty Union, which the world feared but also took note of?

[Kravchuk] Well, history has already recorded the fact that the Union has disintegrated.

[Vladina] Yes, but without help? You played a main role in this...

[Kravchuk] I do not deny my role. Because everyone said with one voice that there will be no Union or confederation of any sort without Ukraine. I stated clearly at that time: Ukraine will not join anything. That was the decisive factor in the destruction of the Union. But as for the creator of an independent state, you will have to wait awhile for that... Because this is a minor matter. I could answer you in a year. Come back then.

[Vladina] Fine, I will take you at your word. I will come back then. Yeltsin said that he is building himself a dacha. Shushkevich is building a dacha with his own hands. Do you not want to have your own property, especially since a state dacha is an unreliable thing given our instability?

[Kravchuk] I do not need that kind of thing. My son built his own small dacha back in 1989. If things turn out badly for me he will take me in... [Kravchuk ends]

Momentarily, anguished doubt appeared in the president's eyes. I realized that the main thing troubling him is not just independence but the economic prosperity of Ukraine.

Forgive me for that comparison, Leonid Makarovich, but that is what I saw: He has developed from being "just another leader" into a modern, civilized leader without losing his national character. Thus his visits to the West were not in vain. This is felt everywhere: in how he stands his ground, how he conducts himself in the most disordered and often very emotional situations, how he moves, looks, and even how he wears his suit. I think that if a mature man still has the capacity for self-improvement, he is a promising leader.

Belarus

Bank Chairman on Staying in Ruble Zone, IMF Payments

OW0310010392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the National Bank of Belarus Stanislav Bogdankevich has said that the state of affairs in the ruble zone remains "extremely unsatisfactory". However, he told a news conference in the Belarusian capital Minsk on Friday that his country would "remain in the zone on certain conditions". He mentioned some of those conditions, such as the extensive use of multilateral clearing relations among the "ruble zone" states, the preservation of the Belarusian equivalent of the Ukrainian coupon as a means of payment, and of the Russian ruble as a reserve currency.

Bogdankevich said that the IMF had set to the Belarusian government a stark choice of "making up its mind whether the republic should stay in the ruble zone or withdraw from it in the near future". At the same time the National Bank President said that the leaders of the world's biggest financial organizations were prepared to give heavy aid to the republic in case of its withdrawal from the ruble zone.

Bogdankevich said that Belarus would pay its membership fee of 246 million US dollars to the IMF, including 22 percent - in hard currency at the expense of long-term credits from US banks and the rest, in rubles.

Bogdankevich said that he had issued "no instructions concerning ban on the circulation of rubles in areas of Belarus adjacent to Ukraine or Russia". However, he did not rule out the possibility of such measures being taken by local authorities. He said that in the wake of the abolition of single-use coupons in Belarus local markets, richer in foodstuffs and consumer goods have been exposed to "hit-and-run raids" by black market dealers from areas in neighboring Russia and Ukraine.

Bank Withdraws Rubles From Areas Bordering Lithuania, Ukraine

LD0410171192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1913 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Limanovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk October 1 TASS—On Thursday the rouble has been withdrawn from circulation in Belarus' areas which border on Lithuania and Ukraine on an instruction from the Republican Finance Ministry and the National Bank. All kinds of payments shall now be made there only with the use of settlement notes issued by the Belarusian National Bank.

According to Tamara Korzhenevskaya, chief of the Money Circulation Board of the Belarusian National Bank, the introduction by neighbours of their own currency could lead to an influx of a huge mass of roubles to Belarus. The measures taken by the Finance Ministry and the National Bank are aimed at preventing that, Korzhenevskaya said.

The BELINFORM correspondent has also learned that the republic's financial community discussed the question of terminating the validity of the Soviet rouble throughout Belarus. What has been finally decided is unknown so far but it is clear that a judgement was made about deferring the introduction of this measure.

Premier, Austrian Chancellor Agree on Cooperation, Credits

LD0410165892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna October 1 TASS—Austria's Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and the visiting Prime Minister of Belarus Vyacheslav Kebich discussed questions regarding widening cooperation in different spheres between the two countries at a meeting held in Vienna today.

Characterizing relations among states within the CIS framework, Vyacheslav Kebich said that strengthening friendship and cooperation with Russia will always be given top priority by Belarus.

Franz Vranitzky expressed satisfaction at the balanced political stand taken by Belarus, its endeavour to achieve concord within the CIS framework and strengthening ties with Russia, as well as with other European states.

At a press conference held on the same day, the head of the Belarusian Government indicated that the talks held in Vienna were fruitful. He noted that today it is already pointless to divide Europe into West and East. Belarus's main goal is integration within a common European process, he said.

Talking to ITAR-TASS, Vyacheslav Kebich emphasised that Belarus strives to develop cooperation with Austria and other European states on a mutual beneficial basis. Austrian firms are showing deep interest in economic ties with Belarusian enterprises. In Belarus, the state will no more play the role of a mechanism regulating relations between different firms, he said. Our task is to assist and help enterprises and firms establish fruitful contacts, Kebich said. As far as cooperation with Austria is concerned, in the near future, interaction in processing agricultural produce, contacts in spheres of machine-building, petrochemical industry and public health services should be particularly developed.

A memorandum of cooperation between Belarus and Austria was signed in the Federal Chancellor's department, in which both sides expressed their readiness to consistently develop economic ties. The most important clause of this document envisages an understanding on Austria's part to provide a limitless credit worth 5 billion Austrian schillings to Belarus during the first five years with the aim of conducting economic reforms.

The head of the Belarusian Government visited the Austrian Parliament and had a meeting with its members.

Government Takes Measures Against Corruption

LD0110153692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Vladimr Glod for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 28 Sep—The resolution "On Serious Deficiencies in the Work of State and Economic Bodies, and Officials Responsible for the Defence of the Economic Interests of the Republic," adopted today by the republican government, stipulates a number of economic, administrative, and legal measures aimed at stabilizing the situation in Belarus. This document introduces a state monopoly on the sale of alcohol, beer, and tobacco products. Centrally distributed resources are banned from sale on commodity markets. Employees of law enforcement bodies are granted additional rights.

A department of economic control has been created under the Council of Ministers. In order to ensure the safety of citizens the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the KGB have been ordered to set up joint night patrols in towns and villages, as well as on roads and motorways. Other measures are also being planned.

Workers Exposed to Radiation in Foundry Accident

LD0210195692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Sergey Konorov]

[Text] Vitebsk October 2 TASS—Civil defence experts eliminated a radioactive accident which occurred at a foundry of the Komintern Plant in Vitebsk on Thursday.

The workers who were overdosed during the accident are passing medical examinations. There were twenty people at the foundry.

The accident was discovered early on Thursday at the beginning of the working shift. One of the instruments which measures the level of loading of the charge into the shaft melted. It contained cesium-137 in a lead coating.

However, work was stopped in the foundry only by noon. Workers were for several hours exposed to radiation.

Experts found out that the cesium containing capsule remained sealed, however the melted lead coating became the source of radiation. The melted metal oozed on the floor of the foundry.

Moldova

Foreign Minister, UN's Butrus-Ghali Discuss Dniester

AU0310152192 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1351 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/10/1992—Nicolae Tiu, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova conveyed, during in interview with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, a message from the president of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, expressing gratitude for the efforts made to solve the conflict in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Foreign Minister Tiu asked the UN secretary general to send a mission of observers to attend the Moldovan-Russian negotiations on the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army from the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Tiu observed that once the peacekeeping forces had been deployed in the conflict area, the further stay of the 14th Army was completely unmotivated as an alleged "guarantor of peace" and should therefore be withdrawn unconditionally and without delay.

In his turn, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali welcomed the steps taken by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova for the peaceful settlement of the conflict and stressed he was following with great attention the developments in that zone, showing readiness, at the same time, to further devote his diligence as UN secretary general, so that the conflict could be definitively settled, MOLDOVA-PRES writes quoting a communique by the Moldovan Foreign Ministry press office.

Tiu Meets UN Official on Assistance

AU0310164092 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1132 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 3/10/1992—The foreign minister of the Republic of Moldova, Nicolae Tiu, had an interview in New York, with William H. Draper, who administers the United Nations Development Program [UNDP], says MOLDOVA-PRES.

Mr. Draper said he thought UNDP should further its technical assistance to Moldova. It was agreed that UNDP experts would pay a visit to Chisinau next week, to prepare the necessary framework for the opening of a UNDP center at Chisinau.

An agreement was signed of cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and UNDP, informs MOLDOVA-PRES, citing the press office of the Moldovan Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Snegur Declares Independence in Best Interest of Republic

LD0410221192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0446 GMT 4 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau October 4 TASS—The existence of an independent Moldovan state accords with the interests of all its neighbours, including Romania, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told a correspondent of the Hungarian PROGRESS-EAST independent news agency.

Snegur said 98 per cent of the electorate had voted for his programme which envisages a course towards Moldova's independence. This is the people's choice, he said, and no one has the right to pursue a state policy against its will. As far as Moldovan-Romanian relations are concerned, the present government of the republic encourages political, economic and cultural cooperation with Romania, resolutely remove the artificial obstacles put in the past.

In response to a question about Moldova's regular armed forces, Snegur said that a national army of the republic is in its formative stage. In prospect, provided there is stability in Europe, Moldova will become a demilitarised zone so as to utilise its entire potential for peaceful, creative purposes, Snegur said.

No Dispatch of Cease-Fire Monitors Until Parliament Decision

LD0410114992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Belarus has refused to send its observers to monitor the fulfillment of the Sochi agreements on a cease-fire on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border before an official decision has been made by the republic's parliament.

Moldova, Belarus Agree To Follow Single Pricing Policy

LD0310061892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Governments of Moldova and Belarus have agreed to follow a single pricing policy in their reciprocal trade. Belarus is undertaking to process oil bought by Moldova at its own refineries. There is an understanding on other joint projects for 1993.

Former Premier Mircea Druc May Lose Parliamentary Status

LD0410200292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau October 3 TASS—Ex-Moldovan Premier and leader of the Moldovan Popular Front Mircea Druc will be possibly deprived of deputy powers at the fall session of the republican parliament, the KISHINEVSKIYE NOVOSTI newspaper reports today, referring to well-informed parliamentary circles.

Many representatives of the parliamentary majority and the Moldovan public consider it inadmissible that Mircea Druc, who has received Romanian citizenship and ran for Romanian president, remain a deputy of the Republic of Moldova, whose statehood he does not recognize. Druc considers it to be a temporary artificially-created formation.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Meets IMF Director; Promises Bright Prospects

LD0410162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1532 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Konstantin Borodinov]

[Text] Alma-Ata October 1 TASS—The topical problems of a further stabilisation of the economy of Kazakhstan, an accelerated privatisation, and the transfer of state-run enterprises to other owners were discussed here on Thursday during a meeting between the republic's president Nursultan Nazarbayev and Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who is touring CIS countries to study the course of economic restructuring.

Speaking at a news conference at a close of the meeting, Nazarbayev said in particular that foreign aid "is fully dependent on our activity and resolute transition to a market economy".

The future and brighter prospects for people in Kazakhstan and their salvation from long and dificult expectations of positive results of transformations lie precisely in a rapid and, most importantly, competent carrying out of reforms and in the strengthening of a common economic space of the CIS, Nazarbayev said.

The president emphasised that he sets great hopes on the forthcoming meeting in Bishkek where he intends to bring up a package of proposals capable of stopping the economic decline of CIS countries. However, irrespective of the outcome of the meeting, Kazakhstan will continue to establish close cooperation with the IMF and hold consultations with IMF representatives, Nazarbayev said.

Camdessus, for his part, pointed out that he was greatly impressed by the determination and preparedness of the leadership of Kazakhstan to reform the economy in close cooperation with IMF experts and with partners for the CIS.

For example, he said that, despite the Baltic countries' renunciation of the common rouble space, they would not evade the harsh realities brought on by a high extent of the integration of their national economies with those of other republics of the former Soviet Union.

Joint Memorandum Describes Accords

LD0410221492 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Nursultan Nazarbayev and Michel Camdessus discussed topical problems in further stabilizing the economy of Kazakhstan and in accelerating the implementation of privatization and denationalization. They also talked about some other issues concerning close cooperation between our republic and the IMF.

A joint memorandum was agreed upon. It sets out the accords reached in providing Kazakhstan with specific financial help from the IMF, this prestigious international organization. The aid will commence immediately after a joint agreement on and confirmation of the basic directions of the republic's economic reformation. [passage omitted]

GATT Grants Kazakhstan Observer Status

LD0310231192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0953 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Kazakhstan has been granted observer status in the GATT. This decision was made during the GATT session in Geneva on 29 September. [passage omitted]

Poll of Government Deputies on Draft Constitution

OW0310153592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kazakhstan 31 percent of the deputies of various levels believe that the new constitution should consolidate the parliamentary-presidential form of government. Preference to pure presidency was given by 25.7 percent and to parliamentary republic - by 17.2 percent of the respondents.

The opinion poll was held by the group of sociological analysis and prognosticating of the Kazakh parliament's information center. Out of the 377 respondents 21.2 percent were deputies of the parliament, 29.4 percent represented regional, 29.2 percent - district and 20.2 percent - city and village councils.

As many as 60.5 percent of those polled said that the local councils had not enough authority and 35.5 percent of the respondents complained that the parliament of Kazakhstan lacked authoritative and other constitutional powers.

In the opinion of 71.1 percent of the respondents, the president enjoys sufficient authority. The amount of authority enjoyed by the Cabinet was described as sufficient by 65.8 percent of the respondents; by courts - 66.1 percent, by the Constitutional Court - 65.2 percent and by the Procurator- General's Office - by 64.2 percent of those polled.

Nazarbayev, Others Attend Kazakh National Assembly

LD0310171292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1542 GMT 30 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG correspondents Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov, Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 30 TASS—Hundreds of guests from CIS countries and abroad gathered at the

Kazakh Palace in Alma-Ata on Wednesday to attend a meeting held within the framework of Kazakh Kurultay (National Assembly).

Hundreds of ethnic Kazakhs, representing millions of Kazakh people, destined to leave their native country and currently residing in other countries, attended the meeting.

Now that Kazakhstan gained independence, Kazakh emigrants have the opportunity of restoring ties with the land of their ancestors, paying homage to their native country, and those who want to return home, can do so.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the meeting. He read out a decree on granting citizenship to eleven ethnic Kazakhs residing abroad, who had applied to him with a corresponding request.

The meeting was also addressed by chairman of the Kazakh People's Congress Party, poet Olzhas Suleimanov, Kyrgyz Deputy Prime-Minister Abdigani Erkebayev, Halifa Altay, a prominent expert studying problems of the orient, Mizsamkhan Mouganuly, chief of the Mongol Regional Administration, Kabi Summer, representative of the Kazakh Diaspora in Germany, and Amangeldy Tuleev, chairman of the Kemerovo Regional Council.

It was noted at the meeting that the universal Kazakh community and the World Centre of Kazakhs in Alma-Ata, which are being created in accordance with a decision of the Kazakh Kurultay, chaired by Nursultan Nazarbayev, will promote strengthening of ties between Kazakhs and bring people closer together.

Prime Minister, PRC Envoy Speak at Embassy Opening

LD0310225692 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0953 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The PRC Embassy was officially opened in Alma-Ata on 30 September in a celebratory atmosphere. Representatives of state and public organizations came to the embassy. Huang Deguang, ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary of the PRC, talked about the expanding fruitful diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties of his country with Kazakhstan and about the long traditions of friendship in relations between the two peoples. He made special note of the fact that the official opening of the embassy was taking place on the eve of the 43d anniversary of the proclamation of the PRC. The state flag of the PRC was hoisted over the diplomatic mission to the tune of the national anthem.

Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, speaking next, warmly congratulated the Chinese diplomats and all those assembled on the opening of the embassy. He emphasized that Kazakhstan's policy with regard to (?the PRC) was directed at further strengthening friendship and various forms of cooperation on a mutually advantageous basis. Present at the ceremony were Zinaida Fedotova, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet; Baltash Tursumbayev, deputy prime minister; and Tuleutay Suleymenov, foreign minister.

Parliamentary Science, Education Delegation Visits China

LD0410220392 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] China and Kazakhstan should learn from each other's experience in legislation on science, technology, and education, declared Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, during a meeting with a parliamentary delegation from Kazakhstan led by Orazaly Sabdenov, chairman of the Committee for Issues on the Development of Science and People's Education, which is in Beijing on an official visit.

The Chinese leader noted that the signing of Sino-Kazakh documents in this area has been a good start for expanding interparliamentary exchanges. He also expressed confidence that the first visit of a parliamentary delegation from Kazakhstan following the declaration of independence will strengthen friendship and cooperation between legislative bodies and peoples in the two countries.

United Arab Emirates Establish Diplomatic Relations

LD0410183992 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0901 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan have established diplomatic relations. The Republic of Kazakhstan now has diplomatic relations with 61 countries.

Kyrgyzstan

President, IMF Managing Director Discuss Economic Improvements

LD0410163492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1558 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By KYRGYZTAG-TASS correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek October 1 TASS—"We have already begun to implement a programme on the improvement of the economic situation in the republic, worked out jointly with IMF experts," Askar Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, said today in the course of the talks with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Kyrgyz president stressed that, thanks to IMF experts, the programme is well-balanced and was approved by both the government and the parliament. The two sides also considered the possibility of granting credits by the World Bank to the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

During a three-day stay in Kyrgyzstan Michel Camdessus will also meet with prime minister of the republic, Tursunbek Chyngyshev, parliamentarians and economists.

Russia Helping With Foreign Debt

LD0510084392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev told a news conference in the republic's house of government on the occasion of the arrival of Michel Camdessus, director of the International Monetary Fund, that Kyrgyzstan no longer has the problem of a foreign debt of approximately $800 million inherited from the USSR. Akayev said that Russia has agreed to take over a portion of Kyrgyzstan's foreign debt and that now the republic is faced only by the problem of returning credits allocated by the Russian Federation.

Premier Views Tightening Monetary Policies

OW0210220792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] President Akayev Friday received the acting Director of the International Monetary Fund Michel Camdessus. Their meeting was preceded by a meeting with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev.

In an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the government head said that though on the whole IMF experts were satisfied with the republic's economic legislation, which they said "is more advanced" than other CIS nations, Camdessus said financial and monetary policy must be tightened, primarily to strengthen the ruble.

The IMF director said this process is not running as it should in the CIS "which is impeding prospective aid from being extended to CIS nations that have joined the fund". Chyngyshev said Camdessus emphasized that CIS nations must make a consolidated effort to stabilize the ruble and strongly advised Kyrgyzstan to remain in the ruble zone.

Chyngyshev said the IMF also demanded that Kyrgyzstan "introduce strict budget policy in 1993 and reduce subsidies to state firms", and develop its legislation on foreign investment.

Over the last eight months the Kyrgyz government has held intensive consultations with the IMF to coordinate a macroeconomic program for the coming year. If the program is approved Kyrgyzstan will receive a 50 million dollar IMF credit and another 60 million from the World Bank. The republic also hopes to receive 200 million dollars from donor-nations. [passage omitted]

Camdessus Assures Supply of Subsidies

OW0410155892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The International Monetary Fund will take all necessary measures before the end of the year to ensure that Kyrgyzstan receives the negotiated subsidies in 1993, IMF managing director Michel Camdessus said at a press conference in Bishkek last evening. The world should give support to the Kyrgyz government, which is able to carry out its program of radical economic reforms and stabilize the country's economy.

Answering our correspondent's question, Camdessus said stabilizing the ruble is the main problem for the CIS countries. All enterprises would eventually be strangled if the ruble kept going down. Immediate measures, he said, are necessary to avoid hyperinflation, namely: First, all CIS countries should form a single economic area. The October 9 CIS summit in Bishkek can be very important from this standpoint, Camdessus believes.

Second, there should be a normal system of settling accounts between states.

Third, the governments of the states coming within the ruble zone should have much stronger economic, especially credit and monetary, policies in order to control inflation more effectively.

Camdessus also said it is Kyrgyzstan's sovereign right either to introduce its own currency or remain in the ruble zone, and that the IMF would respect either decision. However it would be more reasonable for Kyrgyzstan to have a fiscal policy integrated into that of the CIS as a whole, for no CIS country would be able cope with inflation on its own, and integration would also make easier mutual payments between enterprises in different Commonwealth states.

Akayev Asks Peace Corps To Help Establish Farming Industry

OW0210220692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev received a delegation from the American Peace Corps Friday, saying that he respects the corps' "charitable cause". Akayev said the corps "helps developing nations move closer to a higher level of civilization".

The Kyrgyz president listed specific areas in which the Peace Corps could help the republic. An example is strengthening the agricultural private sector - a process which Akayev said is top priority in Kyrgyzstan. The president would also like the corps to participate in an environmental protection program.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The U.S. Peace Corps will sign an agreement with Kyrgyzstan in October or November, as part of which the corps will open an office in Bishkek in early 1993; the first group of 25 volunteers will arrive for a two year period. The volunteers will provide free English language lessons to Kyrgyz students.

President Decrees Wage Increase; Lower Taxes Envisaged

LD0210210192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] As of 1 November, the salaries of employees in the non-production sphere in Kyrgyzstan will be doubled, a decree issued today by republican President Askar Akayev reads. The document applies to all enterprises and institutions, regardless of ownership. Following this, the minimum salary, benefit, or grant will total 1,600 rubles per month. At the same time, salary indices for calculating labor pensions will increase 2.4 times.

The decree also envisages amendments to the law on personal taxation with a view to reducing taxes.

Defense Official Outlines Agreement With Uzbekistan

OW0310014592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Within the framework of a treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on cooperation in the defense sphere during a recent visit by President Askar Akayev to Tashkent.

The deputy chairman of the Kyrgyz state defense committee, Major-General Kubanychbek Oruzbayev, said in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX that the agreements are on developing cooperation for material and technical provisions for the armed forces, to prepare an officer corps and a procedure by which officers and ensigns complete military service. According to Oruzbayev, the documents solidify the mechanism to realize the treaty on collective security signed within the CIS. Kyrgyzstan is also preparing such agreements with Russia's and Kazakhstan's defense departments.

Oruzbayev stressed that Kyrgyzstan was interested in signing such an agreement with its neighbor Tajikistan, but that due to the complicated socio-political situation now it was difficult to guess when this would happen.

Turkish Education Minister Continues Tour

TA0310085892 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Yavuz Yorulmaz from Kyrgyzstan]

[Text] National Education Minister Koksal Toptan, currently in Kyrgyzstan for the Turkish republics and communities education ministers conference, toured the Osh region. He laid the cornerstone of a secondary school to be built by the National Education Fund in (Kazamcay's) (Kizilbulak) village.

During the ceremony, Toptan said that cooperation must be initiated in economic and other fields, including education, without further delay. Stressing that the Turkish entrepreneurs' studies in these republics have not reached the desired level, Toptan remarked that the development of cooperation in commerce, industry, and tourism, aided by the state, will be mutually beneficial. He explained that the private sector has also contributed to education in the Turkic republics, adding that 25 schools were opened by the private sector within this framework.

The Turkic republics and communities education ministers conference, which opened in Bishkek on 29 September, will end tomorrow with a final declaration.

Electric Power Line Begins Supplies to China

LD0410162392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 1 Oct 92

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov - TASS]

[Text] Bishkek October 1 TASS—The electric power transmission line Kyrgyzstan-China has been put into operation today.

Two days ago, Kyrgyz and Chinese delegations met at the Torugart border check point for a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the beginning of electricity supply from Kyrgyzstan to China.

The electric power transmission line is over 12 kilometers long and was constructed by both sides.

The energy supplied via the line will make up for a total amount of energy produced by a small diesel electric power station in north west China which had operated only two hours a day.

Other joint projects provide for the opening of more powerful energy transmission lines into Chinese areas, which do not have adequate electricity.

There are plans to launch joint construction of an electrical power station on the Sary-Dzhaz River on the border.

Tajikistan

Acting Prime Minister Heads to Russia for Talks

LD0210110592 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Today Abdumalik Abduladzhanov, acting prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, left for Moscow. He will hold talks with the Russian Federation Government on questions related to the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries. Questions on mutual relations in the military field will also be discussed.

Iskandarov Welcomes Mission From Kyrgyz Government

OW0210221392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The republic's acting president, chairman of the Supreme Council Akbarsho Iskandarov was interviewed by an INTERFAX correspondent Friday.

Mr Iskandarov reminded of his appeal to the CIS leaders, confirming that the republic's government is interested in addressing the situation in Tajikistan as a separate issue at Bishkek summit.

Mr Iskandarov noted that of all the CIS countries only Kyrgyzstan alone has responded to his appeal to dispatch the republics' representatives to Tajikistan for evaluating the situation there. (Currently staying in Dushanbe is Kyrgyz vice president Feliks Kulov. It is his second visit to the republic in the recent ten days - IF [INTERFAX]).

The acting president expressed a hope that Kulov's meetings with heads of local administrations as well as with the leaders of the opposing parties in the conflict zone will enable him to prepare a comprehensive report for the heads of states at Bishkek summit.

Kyrgyz Vice President on Peacekeeping

OW0310152192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-President of Kyrgyzstan Feliks Kulov stated that a fragile hope for a truce has arisen in Tajikistan as a result of his talks with representatives of the conflicting parties in Kurgan-Tyube. The first step towards compromise has been made, he said. He also told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that both sides welcomed the idea of sending peace-keeping forces to Tajikistan on the condition that they consist of representatives of a neutral state. The choice fell on Kyrgyzstan, because Kyrgyzstan was the first to respond to the call for assistance in settling the conflict in the south of Tajikistan made by the Tajik leaders, and by Chairman of the Tajik parliament and Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov, to the CIS heads of state.

Kulov said that the agreement on 90-per-cent withdrawal of armed formations from Kurgan-Tyube was reached with the leaders of one of the conflicting parties.

The sides believe that the peace-keeping corps should separate the conflicting groupings to enable the republic to get prepared for the winter. This idea can be implemented, he went on to say, only on the condition that a truce agreement be reached and the functions of the peace-keeping corps be recognized by all of the forces involved in the conflict.

Kulov stressed that this problem is very delicate and requires an all-round discussion. With this end in view, the Tajik leaders pledged to prepare a corresponding draft document for the forthcoming Bishkek summit. "We also agreed that during the Bishkek summit personal envoys of the CIS presidents will go to Tajikistan to get acquainted with the political situation and have discussions on the score," said the Kyrgyz vice-president.

He also added that if peace-keeping forces are sent to Tajikistan, control over their performance should be exercised by representatives of the conflicting parties, by the republic's political parties and movements and by CIS observers.

Iskandarov Says Government Unable To Disarm Detachments

OW0510145992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Tajik President Akbarsho Iskandarov thinks the government does not have enough power at present to disarm the republic's conflicting detachments representing various political trends.

In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX], he put all the blame for the present situation on ex-President Rakhman Nabiyev. The latter signed a decree setting up a national guard corps in Tajikistan but "let things slide": he failed to put the forces stationed in Tajikistan under the republic's jurisdiction, as a result of which "sovereign and independent Tajikistan has neither its own army nor its own armaments." In Iskandarov's opinion, Nabiyev's resignation has in no way affected the republic's power structures. The cabinet, for example, is still working normally.

As for a new presidential election and a new parliament session, these, Iskandarov said, will not be held until the political situation in Tajikistan is stabilized. In his opinion, the presidential form of government has proved ineffective in the republic. An alternative could be provided by collective government exercised by a milli-majlis or a similar body, with considerable powers given to the cabinet.

Acting President Fears Afghan, Other Involvement

OW0310151792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of Tajikistan's parliament and Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov warned that if the CIS states do not help Tajikistan settle the armed conflict in the southern regions, Afghanistan and neighboring Islamic countries may get entangled in it. "If they do, the conflict may become global, and pose a threat not only to the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan, but also to the rest of the CIS states," he told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview.

He said that the heads of the CIS states should make every effort to have peace and accord restored in Tajikistan. "The collective security agreement signed in Tashkent binds the heads of state to do so," he remarked.

Speaking about the CIS leaders' forthcoming meeting in Bishkek which is expected to discuss the political situation in Tajikistan, Iskandarov said that Tajikistan will provide the CIS leaders with objective information and ask them to assist in settling the conflict. The Tajik Government, he said, does not rule out the possibility of sending peace-keeping forces to Tajikistan on the condition that they do not get involved in combat operation. He noted that this question will be raised in Bishkek. He added, however, that the introduction of such forces should be coordinated with the conflicting groupings, with the political parties and movements, and with the people of Tajikistan.

Deputy Premier Calls for Withdrawal of Russian Troops

LD0310181792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Davalt Ismonov by Karim Musa; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Musa] Esteemed deputy prime minister, please comment on the current political situation in the republic. How long will these troubles last?

[Ismonov] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The situation today in the republic is very complicated. All of our people know this and know how this situation emerged. I must say that after the division that occured in Tajikistan during May, where groups were formed and one group was removed—the defeated armed group—to some extent, particularly when that group went to Kulyab, Tajikistan was calm. When the new forces joined the old forces, waht was left of the old forces, a government of national reconciliation was formed. Then, interested parties from the former government and from certain CIS governments tried to interfere in the internal affairs of our republic. As a result, the remaining armed forces in Kulyab Oblast, together with forces from other states, including Russia itself and other neighboring states—that is, states in the former USSR—gradually began supporting the defeated old forces. When they realized that they have these powerful forces backing them, they expanded their area of activity from Kulyab Oblast to Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. Kurgan-Tyube thus became a battlefield.

In the last three or four months, they [words indistinct]. When they were defeated in the latest operations in Nurak and Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, when popular forces and government forces entered the perimeter of Kalininabad under difficult circumstances, the forces supporting the insurgents lost [word indistinct] and handed over their modern weapons. These insurgent forces, as is their nature, are causing the trouble. They entered Kurgan-Tyube city, and for over a week now, the city of Kurgan-Tyube has been burning. Many people have been killed. This is the situation today in the repulbic.

[Musa] What is your view of the Russian army, which came to Tajikistan to defend our borders but is now killing Tajiks in Vakhshanzamin? Has the government taken any steps to stop their dirty actions?

[Ismonov] When this incident occurred in Kurgan-Tyube city and the insurgent forces started destroying the city, the current leadership of the republic, led by Akbarsho Iskandarov, contacted the Russian leadership a number of times and informed them of the situation. They [word indistinct] their envoy to Tajikistan, General (Varabuyev).

That night, we did not sleep; we went to the Russian forces garrison and asked that General (Varabuyev) meet us. At the meeting, we raised a number of issues, including, first and foremost, the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from the hot spots, that is, the removal of the divisions in both Kurgan-Tyube and Kulyab to a neutral place. We put this request to him. General (Varabuyev) said that the garrisons themselves are not strong enough to deal with the removal of these forces from this region and that it would be necessary to bring in a number of servicemen from Russia to strengthen these garrisons to enable them to remove those forces. As a result, General (Varabuyev), with the agreement of Akbarsho Iskandarov, sent a telegram requesting that a few hundred servicemen be brought in.

This is the background to the arrival of a few hundred Russian servicemen. Our main demand was that these Russian forces immediately destroy or retake the tanks they had given to the insurgent forces. Unfortunately, one week has gone by and all the tanks and armored vehicles given to the insurgents have not been returned. We are concerned that they—that is, the Russian leaders—have not done enough. Other factors are involved. Actually, some signs are emerging, also of concern to us, that Russia, the Russian forces, have removed their masks and are openly aiding the insurgent forces. This could have very dangerous consquences.

[Musa] What will the consequences of the Russian military interference be? Is the fate of our people going to be the same as that of the Afghans? Is the fate of the current leaders going to be the same as that of Tarraki and Amin?

[Ismonov] I must say that in reality, the war is between freedom-loving forces and those forces that do not want freedom and independence for Tajikistan. This could well be interpreted as a war between Islam and nonbelievers—it is basically between Islam and nonbelievers—but the war here is also between freedom-loving forces and forces that want to return the republic to its former condition, that of a (?colony) of Russia.

Openly stated, it is a war between Russia and Tajikistan. In one respect, it is probably correct to compare our situation to what happened in Afghanistan. I think that something similar is being repeated here. The Russians entered Afghanistan with the aim of aiding the government. When they went in, the Russian army, which in the course of 70 years had been disintegrating and whose servicemen were corrupt—many of them involved in immoral and irresponsible actions—the Russian soldiers themselves not only sold weapons to the Afghan Government but also to forces fighting against the government, that is, to the mujahidin. Our current leaders are under the impression that with the Russian forces they can save themselves and suppress the freedom-loving forces; that is wrong. The only way out for the current leaders of the republic is to turn to freedom-loving forces and establish a just social order in a free and independent Tajikistan.

[Musa] There are reports that many thousand more Russian servicemen will be coming. Is this true?

[Ismonov] I do not know. If this does happen, it would be the biggest mistake of our country's leadership. The number of Russian servicemen now in Tajikistan is too high. The Russian army should withdraw. There is no other way out.

Russian Division Agrees to Remain on Bases, Remove Bridge Checkpoints

OW0510145092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fighting is still going on between armed deetachments in Tajikistan's Kurgan-Tyube Region.

Meanwhile, as Svyatoslav Nabzdorov, chief of staff of the 201st Russian division stationed in Tajikistan, told IF [INTERFAX] the Russian forces have today started carrying out the provisions of the agreements reached yesterday by the conflicting groups, clergy, members of the Kurgan-Tyube regional council, and commanding officers from the Russian forces. Henceforth the units will never be leaving their bases (the exception being the unit guarding the Nurek Hydroelectric Station) and checkpoints will be removed from the bridge over the Vakhsh River linking Dushanbe with Kurgan-Tyube.

Fighting Intensifies in Kurgan-Tyube as Tanks Continue Shelling

LD0310133992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] According to a report just in, dear listeners, this morning tanks have reappeared in the city of Kurgan-Tyube. These tanks belonged to the occupying Russian forces, who caused the misfortunes experienced by our suffering people.

Last night we learned from a television program that the army is still causing trouble for the people. According to witnesses, Russian tanks and armored vehicles have reduced the city and surrounding villages to rubble. Hundreds of people have been killed, and a large number of people have been left wounded. Requesting assistance from the Russian army was the biggest mistake of the Government of Tajikistan's leadership.

The latest solution is for the army to gather up its tanks and hardware and urgently leave Kurgan-Tyube. Under the pretext of defending their equipment, they, in collusion with insurgent groups, are delivering the Tajiks into the hands of the enemies of the Tajik nation.

Before it is too late, government leaders should correct their mistake and urgently adopt measures to withdraw the occupying army from the country.

Specialists are constantly suggesting that Russia take military action within the next few days, similar to that which it took in Afghanis.an in 1978.

According to another report from our correspondent, yesterday the city of Kurgan-Tybe was transformed into a field of heavy fighting. Volunteer defense brigades and supporters of the legal Government of Tajikistan, on one side, and the insurgent formations of Sangak Safarov and Rustam Abdurakhim, on the other, were firing on each one another. The battle to liberate the city from the traitors is so fierce that city residents cannot leave their homes.

Yesterday Sangak Safarov declared himself mayor of Kurgan-Tyube and demanded that people return to work. He also said that he will not trouble anyone. A few people who did emerge from their homes became targets of the insurgents. People are on the brink of dying from thirst and hunger. They do not wish to face the traitors.

The sound of tank shells can be heard during the clashes.

Groups Lift Blockade of Russian Troops in Kurgan-Tyube

LD0310183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Dushanbe September 30 TASS—The three-day long blockade of a Russian rifle regiment stationed in Kurgan-Tyube in the south of Tajikistan was lifetd on Wednesday after talks of the regiment's commander with the warring Tajik groups, TASS learned from Nikolay Medvedev, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry.

On Tuesday additional 800 Russian soldiers arrived from Moscow to Dushanbe to reinforce the 201st Russian Motorised Infantry Division stationed in Tajikistan. The number of Russian troops in the Central Asian republic now totals 10,000 people. The move was agreed on with Tajik authorities to prevent the Russian troops from increased attacks with the aim of seizing arms and hostages by the warring groups of Tajiks.

Situation at the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense. It became known today that 15 Tajiks carrying arms from Afghanistan were detained by border guards in Pyandzh Region. 22 submachine-guns and pistols, as well as a lot of ammunition were confiscated.

Also on Tuesday two out of six transgressors were killed in a clash with border guards in the same area. The other four fled back to Afghanistan. No casualties were reported among the Russian border guards.

Over 10,000 refugees from conflict areas of Tajikistan are staying at present in Dushanbe and more are expected. Urban authorities have no food and housing for the refugees. But hundreds of people are still arriving by trucks, cars and on foot.

Women from Kurgan-Tyube picketed the "Oktyabrskaya" hotel in Dushanbe where the Russian Embassy is temporarily staying and demanded to stop Russian interference into the conflict in Tajikistan.

Akbarsho Iskandarov, Tajik acting president and chairman of parliament, has sent personal messages to the U.N. secretary-general and leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In a message to Butrus-Ghali Iskandarov pointed out that Tajikistan counted on the assistance and support of the world community in settling the conflict and stabilising the situation in the republic.

He asked the CIS leaders to "take urgent measures for rendering active assistance to the Constitutional Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in normalising the situation, establishing peace and accord on Tajik land."

Prime Minister on Economic, Political Crisis

LD0410061692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Statement by Acting Prime Minister A. Abduladzhanov; place, date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] We should set ourselves one aim—to achieve peace, because this present war is such a disgrace, Tajik against Tajik. Moreover, many of those involved are relatives; they are fighting each other. I think common sense will win, and I am sure we will come to this—there is no alternative.

If we do not achieve this, neither economic reform nor a way out of the existing economic crisis can come under discussion. Emerging from an economic crisis is as difficult as emerging from a political crisis, because here everyone should also set an aim for himself. But we will take the unequivocal direction of supporting the development of small and medium-sized businesses, free enterprise, in which the whole people will participate. If everyone participates in this process, we will succeed. When the people are rich, then the state will be rich. But we have a situation in which everyone thinks that the state should be rich and strong and the people poor. It never happens that way.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Urges Political Solution

OW0210132892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Unpredictable and tense" remains the situation in the Kurgan-Tyube region of Tajikistan, said deputy head of the republic's parliament Sayfiddin Turayev Thursday to INTERFAX. He recently returned from a trip to the republic's southern areas. Turayev and deputy head commander of Russia's land troops Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, who accompanied him on the trip, met with representatives from one of the conflicting sides who have control of the city of Kurgan-Tyube.

Turayev said that now "it's necessary to take under protection the vitally important establishments in Yavan and Vakhsh, and to secure the safety of roads leading to the Kurgan-Tyube region for the regular supply of food." He said that to do so the republic's leadership "is relying on the Russian regiment deployed in Kurgan-Tyube."

Turayev believes that the armed conflict in the republic must be resolved "exclusively by political means." Nonetheless he did not rule out the possibility of drawing in CIS peacekeeping forces.

Turayev believes that this could be possible only if the forces "in no way take part in fighting activity."

Turayev said that in the near future it will be necessary to begin disarming the fighting groups. He stated that the republic's government is now developing "a version of an agreement on the reconciliation of the sides, which could satisfy all opposing sides."

Leaders Discuss Stabilization; Russian TV Being Restored

LD0210122992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday between Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Abdumalik Abduladzhanov, acting prime minister, with officials in the Ministry for Internal Affairs, the Committee for National Security, and the Procuracy.

Questions connected with the normalization of the situation in the republic and in the capital, Dushanbe, were examined. The tasks of the law and order organs were defined under the current conditions. Participants in the meeting made specific proposals aimed to stabilize the sociopolitical situation and to eliminate unofficial armed groups. Iskandarov and Abduladzhanov answered questions posed by officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Committee for National Security, and the Procuracy.

Abduladzhanov then held a news conference with domestic and foreign journalists. Answering their questions, Abduladzhanov said that Tajikistan is prepared to cooperate economically with any interested country. Efforts are currently being made to find ways of establishing mutually advantageous contacts with new partners abroad.

Concering political problems, the acting prime minister emphasized that until the people themselves realize the neccessity for a speedy end to [word indistinct], pulling the republic out of the economic crises will not be possible.

He also noted that once the protocol on joint work between Russian and Tajik television is signed, Russian television programs will be restored.

Russian Frontier Guards Tighten Control Over State Border

OW0410144392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1406 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The frontier guards managed to prevent two attempts of crossing the Tajik-Afghan border in the region of Pyadzh on Sunday [4 October] morning. The operative headquarters of the Russian frontier forces in Tajikistan told INTERFAX that in the first case the violators opened fire against a frontier post. The frontier guards opened counterfire and in the result two violators were wounded, the frontier guards confiscated an automatic gun and a machine gun.

In the second case after a short fighting the frontier guards killed one violator and 2 were captured. The violators had 2 automatic guns, 1 machine gun, grenades, and a lot of ammunitions.

"More than 50 people have voluntarily returned from Afghanistan and surrendered to the local authorities over the last week. All of them are citizens of Tajikistan", the commander of a group of the RF [Russian Federation] frontier forces in Tajikistan, Major General Vitaliy Gritsan, told INTERFAX.

Gritsan said that at present there are more than 200 people in Afghanistan who had illegally crossed the border. An agreement was reached during the recent negotiations held with the chairmen of the collective farms in the border region of Pyandzh which states that according to the settlement with the Afghan party the representatives of the local authorities will cross the border and will propose to their compatriots to return.

The Major General supposes that these people had a course of military training in Afghanistan. "It is better for them to return legally and without guns but not to cross the border with automatic and machine guns", Gritsan says.

Speaking on the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, Gritsan declared that the frontier guards have firmly closed the channels for weapons export. The weapons confiscated from the violators is being handed over to the law enforcement bodies. According to the General, the violators try to export grenade cup dischargers, pieces of ordnance, machine guns, ammunitions, and other weapons, and also drugs. The Russian frontier guards have confiscated 4 million 590 thousand 345 rubles over the last period of time. They have destroyed 3000 units of different weapons and captured 800 people.

Iranian Food Aid Aircraft Arrives in Dushanbe

LD0410100192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Today, with the initiative of the Red Crescent Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, an aircraft carrying food arrived in the city of Dushanbe.

Former Dushanbe Mayor Released on Probation

OW0210125292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's deputy Interrior Minister Sheraly Hairullayev has reported to IF [INTERFAX] that Dushanbe's former Mayor Maskud Ikramov has been released from custody in Hudjande, a town in northern Tajikistan. He was arrested last spring in the building of Tajikistan's Parliament on office abuse charges.

The Attorney-General has ruled that he'd be let out on probation until the end of investigation and his movements be restricted to the city limits.

Ikramov was one of the most outspoken opposition supporters when in the autumn of 1991 after a two-month-long rally in Dushanbe, the Parliament abolished its ban on Islamic Revival Party activity and agreed to Presidential elections on a multiparty basis. It was then that on Mr. Ikramov's instruction, a monument to Lenin on Dushanbe's central square was pulled down.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Receives Turkish Tourism Minister

TA0510124792 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Tourism Minister Abdulkadir Ates, who is currently visiting Turkmenistan, was received by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov. During the meeting, Ates conveyed to Niyazov an invitation from President Turgut Ozal to attend the 29 October Republic Day celebrations in Turkey, and the invitation was accepted.

According to ANATOLIA, Geldymurad Nurmukhamedov, the Turkmen culture and tourism minister, also met with a group of Turkish businessmen accompanying Ates on his visit and called on them to invest in Turkmen tourism. Ates and the accompanying delegation are expected to proceed to Uzbekistan today.

Agriculture Minister Releases Grain Harvest Projections

LD0210154092 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1345 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Paizgeldy Meredov, Turkmen minister of agriculture and foodstuffs, has said in an interview that the republic's total grain harvest is about 600,000 tons and the plan for sales to the state of 200,000 tons has been fulfilled.

The republic is aiming at self-sufficiency in grain. In 1993 a harvest of 1.2 million tons is planned, in 1994 the target is 1.5 million tons with the long-term aim of over 2 million tons.

No food price rises are planned in the short term.

Winter grain crops have already been sown on about 25,000 hectatres. Farms have allocated 350,000 hectares to barley and wheat.

Free Utilities Plan To Cost Over 3 Billion Rubles

OW0310014392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1715 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The recent decree by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov on supplying the public with free gas, water and electricity, will cost the republic about 3548 mn [million] rubles in current prices. A source close to the Turkmen government said in an interview with Interfax that this figure would not cover costs to purchase, install and service gas and water meters.

According to established quotas, in 1993 there will be free supplies of 351 mn cubic meters of water (budget subsidy of 218 mn rubles), 1250 kilowatt hours of electricity (2400 mn rubles), 990 mn cu.meters of natural gas (180 mn rubles) and 67,000 tons of liquified gas (750 mn rubles).

The same source reports that the government is considering two alternative versions to compensate for the cost of supplying gas for free: either by increasing the gas export price by 50 to 80 rubles per each thousand cubic meters or by selling an additional 500 mn cubic meters of gas at the current price of 1600 rubles per thousand cubic meters.

Parliament Appeals for Support for President's Policies

OW0210221492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Turkmen government has addressed an appeal to the republic's citizens to "show more support for the current economic and cultural policies being pursued by the Turkmen government." The address hilighted the fact that public purposefulness, support and hard work together with "a prudent, considered and responsible policy devised by the president would enable public harmony and political stability to be preserved in the republic".

"The Turkmen president's daily business includes the management of the "Zerno" programme, the development of essential industrial sectors, and the establishment of a smoothly running national economy", the address continued.

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Koivisto Stress Joint Economic Potential

OW0210190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovsky, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presidents Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan and Mauno Koivisto of Finland at a press conference Thursday claimed that the economic potentials of the two countries can concur not only in the sphere of trade, but also in exchanging know-how and establishing joint ventures. In their opinion, they would realize these opportunities relying on the trade and economic agreements as well as on the investment protection agreement they have signed.

President Karimov emphasized that Uzbekistan intends to effect its payments with Finland by goods and in hard currency.

In touching on Uzbekistan's financial policy, Present Karimov said that the republic will "introduce its own national currency only after it is sufficiently secured by national wealth and gold assets". He expressed concern over the introduction of their national currency by some of the republics of the former Soviet Union, saying that their move was "too precipitous". In his words, for a certain period the republic would continue to rely on the ruble provided "it is controlled by the inter-republican bank". He said this issue would be addressed in detail at the CIS meeting in Bishkek.

In answering a query by a Finnish journalist, President Karimov confirmed that his republic is politically pluralistic and there are no restrictions for various political parties to operate on its territory. He emphasized that Uzbekistan is the only republic in the Central Asia where the president was elected on the alternative basis, adding that the draft of the republic's new constitution which has recently been made public will be "one of the most democratic constitutions in international community".

In the meantime, Mr Karimov believes that "not every opposition is democratic. We regard with understanding the opposition that respects the constitution. But most of the Uzbek population resent the kind of democracy which is associated with the events similar to the mayhem on Shokhidon Square in Dushanbe."

The president is asking: "Can we call democratic the mob that dislodges the lawfully elected president by the use of violence?" In the president's opinion, "such a scenario could only meet the interests of Islamic Fundamentalists. It would play into the hands of our external adversaries who are smuggling weapons, drugs, and terrorists across the Afghan-Tajik border". He emphasized that by successful joint efforts of the CIS states, the border, which is also the outpost of the entire Commonwealth has been locked. He called on the international community to avert the threat of a civil war in Tajikistan "without waiting for the events to aggravate to the extent they have in Karabakh, Bosnia or Hercegovina".

President Karimov expressed a hope that now "President Mauno Koivisto who is well informed about the developments in Tajikistan will use his authority and opportunities to help settle the situation in that republic".

In his turn, the Finnish president also expressed his preparedness to contribute to the resolution of the crisis in Tajikistan.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Presidents Karimov and Koivisto left Tashkent Friday heading for Samarkand and Bukhara.

French Defense Minister Visits; Praises Role in Tajikistan

PM0510094592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov: "France Has Sent Its Defense Minister To 'Gather Intelligence'"]

[Text] Tashkent—French Republic Defense Minister Pierre Joxe has visited Uzbekistan.

Taking into consideration the well-known events in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, which are causing alarm not only in the Central Asian region but in other countries as well, observers regard his coming here as an unusual kind of "intelligence gathering" operation. In conversation with President Islam Karimov, Pierre Joxe praised highly Uzbekistan's attempts to help stop the bloodshed in Tajikistan. During the meeting, P. Joxe reported that France intends to send a military attache to its embassy in Uzbekistan.

Ministry Creates New Positions To Assist Armed Forces Commanders

OW0410181292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commanding officers in the Uzbek armed forces, from company commanders to the Defense Minister, will now have deputies specially charged with fostering in servicemen loyalty to Uzbekistan, to their oath, and to their duty. Personnel for such posts will be trained at military colleges.

Official Expects Grain Supplies To Last Until 1993

OW0410182692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1724 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan will have practically enough grain to keep it going until the end of the year, thinks Tulkun Miryakulov, chairman of the republic's state grain concern. According to him, in addition to the one million tonnes produced in Uzbekistan itself, 1.8m [million] tonnes has been bought from Kazakhstan and a considerable amount from Turkey, Switzerland, and Bulgaria. Bread-baking facilities are also improving in the republic. Thus, seventy production lines have been bought in Italy.

Uzbekistan's grain supplies are handled by a special body set up by the cabinet and controlled by the President. The body also regulates the prices of grain and flour. Thus, it costs the state 25 rubles to produce 1 kg of flour but the retail price is only seven rubles.

Armenia

Air Defense Talks With Russia To Continue

OW0210141492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian-Armenian talks on the deployment of the Armenian national air defense [AD] system "have not been finalized yet", said Armenia's acting State Defense Minister, Vazgen Manukyan, in an interview for INTERFAX. These talks were conducted by military representatives of the two countries in the context of the visit to Yerevan by the acting head of the Russian Government, Yegor Gaydar.

In the words of Mr. Manukyan, Russia proposes to withdraw all of its air defense personnel from Armenia, leaving the AD hardware behind. This material, Mr. Manukyan complained, is so timeworn and outdated that it would be next to impossible to operate it.

The Armenian proposal, the acting state minister said, consists in dual subordination of the AD troops deployed in Armenia—to the Russian and Armenian defense ministries, with the equipment in their inventory updated.

There are many indications that the talks will be continued, Mr. Manukyan said. The parties agreed to prepare a mutually agreeable program which is to be completed by the October 9 when the CIS heads arrive in Bishkek for summit.

Azerbaijan Attacks Karabakh, Border Settlements

NC0210195292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that the Azerbaijani Army continued its attacks along the entire front in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 1 October. Kichan in Mardakertskiy Rayon and Seidishen in Askeranskiy were also shelled with artillery and Grad rockets.

The Azerbaijani attacks were repulsed on the morning of 2 October. The occupying units retreated from a few more positions near the village of Chldran, which they had occupied earlier.

Askeran and the villages of Karaglukh and Parukh were shelled with long-range artillery and Grad rockets from the military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon on the night of 1 October. The shelling continued until 0200 on 2 October, causing considerable damage. One resident was killed and several were injured.

Edillu in Gadrutskiy Rayon and Karmir-Shuka in Martuninskiy Rayon have been coming under Grad rocket shelling from Fizulinskiy Rayon as of this morning. The shelling was still going on at noontime.

Supported by artillery and tanks and moving out of the military bases in Amiranlar, Muganlu, and (Kropatkina), large Azerbaijani Army formations launched attacks on the suburbs of Martuni on the night of 1 October. Martuni was massively shelled with Grad rockets; the number of casualties is being determined. The Azerbaijani attacks on the town were completely repulsed by noon on 2 October.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] self-defense forces were forced to take countermeasures to suppress the gun emplacements near the Azerbaijani military bases in Amiranlar, Muganlu, and Kropatkina.

Rocket and artillery fire was opened on the Lachin humanitarian corridor from Kelbadzharskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons on the night of 1 October. According to preliminary reports, three people were injured. Traffic continues unimpeded and the NKR is receiving the necessary humanitarian supplies. The self-defense forces managed to halt an Azerbaijani attack advancing towards the village of (Tidik) on the night of 1 October.

According to the reports received from Armenia's rayons, many Armenian border settlements were shelled on the night of 1 October. Yekhvard in Kapanskiy Rayon came under particularly fierce rocket and artillery shelling. Four residents were injured. The shelling caused considerable damage.

Khachik in Yekhegnadzorskiy, Nubarashen in Gorisskiy, and Movses in Tavushskiy Rayon were also subject to artillery shelling. Khachik village was shelled from Nakhichevan. Krasnoselsk was also shelled briefly at 0200 on 2 October. The Armenian side did not retaliate.

Yerevan Blames Azerbaijan for Failure of Talks

NC0210204892 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Excerpts] Friends, you are already aware that the Azerbaijanis are responsible for obstructing the scheduled meeting on the Idzhevanskiy-Kazakhskiy border. Our reporter Tsolak Grigoryan also traveled to the meeting place, and now we bring you his report.

[Begin Grigoryan recording] The scheduled meeting was to have taken place on the Idzhevanskiy-Kazakhskiy border. The Russian observers and International Red Cross representatives were to have participated in the talks. At the last moment, however, the Azerbaijanis demanded that the site of the meeting be changed to an area outside the village of Chardakhly. The enemy, however, greeted the delegation to the talks with automatic weapons fire at the approaches of the village. We were forced to take cover in the courtyard of one of the houses in the village. There I asked Russian observer Colonel (Nikolay Fiyatev) to comment: [passage omitted containing recording of (Fiyatev's) remarks in Russian]

[Grigoryan] Let us state that every effort was in vain. It is the Azerbaijanis' fault that the meeting did not take place. [words indistinct] [end recording]

Ter-Petrosyan: Leaders' Meeting 'Premature'

NC0310131292 Yerevan SNARK in English 1126 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Yerevan, October 2 (SNARK)—President Levon Ter-Petrosyan considers the meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders as premature. Such meeting can be effective only in the case of ceasing the military actions at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and in Nagorno-Karabakh, [said] Aram Abrahamyan, the employee of the president's press.

Hovannisian Urges Turkish Neutrality on Karabakh

NC0310132192 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Oct (ARMENPRES)—Speaking at a news conference at the United Nations headquarters on Wednesday, Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian said Turkey must resume its policy of neutrality on Karabakh conflict and play a constructive role in the establishment of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The minister declared that at the center of Armenian foreign policy rests on the desire to establish "peace, harmony, and stability" in the region. Armenia is "very pleased" with the relations forged with Georgia and Iran. And, despite "difficulties emanating from past history," Armenia and Turkey are moving forward towards the establishment of bilateral friendly relations.

The minister went on to say that though a stable situation has now emerged in Armenia, a conflict situation has arisen outside Armenia's borders in connection with Karabakh. He said: "The Azerbaijani Government is unwilling to sit at the negotiating table to find a solution to that complex problem. Azerbaijan occupied 25 percent of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh over the last three months."

The minister declared that Armenia's position on the Karabakh conflict is the following: In keeping with international law, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have the right to self-determination and to shape their own destiny. Armenia would like Azerbaijan to enter into a direct dialogue with Nagorno-Karabakh and negotiate with it so as to solve the political status of that in-between region."

Raffi Hovannisian noted that the improvement in Armenian-Turkish relations might encourage the termination of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. He said: "Armenia had had a tragic past experience with Turkey. No nation completely forgets its past. Despite that, Armenia has decided to build its relations with Turkey without any precondition."

He stressed that Turkey could play a particularly constructive role in the Karabakh conflict. He said: "Turkey, which has become the main partner of Azerbaijan, has close ethnic, economic, and political ties with her. Therefore, a great responsibility has fallen on Turkey for the establishment of peace in the region. Turkey has to pressure Azerbaijan to abide by the cease-fire and open a dialogue with Nagorno-Karabakh."

The minister deplored the fact that "over the last months, Turkey has abandoned its initial position of maintaining neutrality on Nagorno-Karabakh. She has started to help one of the sides to the conflict, first politically and economically, and in recent months militarily by sending its officers to serve for the Azerbaijani Government. The latest reports also testify to the fact that Turkey is also providing arms to Azerbaijan."

The minister underlined: Armenia is calling on Turkey "to resume its initial neutral position and play a constructive role in the establishment of peace in Nagorno-Karabakh."

Defense Minister Calls for Aid to Karabakh

OW0410181992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Defence Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan in a speech on national television on Saturday [3 October] said Armenia should rely on its own strength for support to Karabakh Armenians since no country in the world had so far given recognition to the Nagorno-Karabkah Republic.

For more effective help to Karabakh, the minister believes that: the Karabakh war must be declared to be the cause of Armenia as a whole; an authority with legislative and executive powers set up under the Armenian president; and a martial law and general mobilisation declared. "A breakthrough can be made if these conditions are met", Sarkisyan said.

On hostilities in the enclave, the minister stressed that "if the Lachin corridor between Karabakh and Armenia, currently under attack by Azeris, is cut off, then Artsakh (as Armenians call Nagorno-Karabakh) is doomed to perish".

Azerbaijan

Minister Rules Out Full Membership in CIS

LD0210111592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Azerbaijan is not to become a full member of the CIS, Panakh Guseynov, state secretary to the president of the republic, has said on national television. He stressed that the People's Front of Azerbaijan has always regarded any central body of power on the territory of the former USSR in a negative light. According to Guseynov, even if the National Mejlis [assembly] were to vote in favor of Azerbaijan's becoming a part of the CIS, the People's Front would use all constitutional means to seek to repeal such a decision.

During the election campaign, Abulfaz Elchibey was consistently opposed to membership in the CIS. At the same time, Isa Gambarov, speaker of the Mejlis and leader of the (Musavat) Party, which still cooperates with the People's Front, has spoken on several occasions of the possibility of Azerbaijan's joining the Commonwealth.

Prime Minister Major Sends Letter to Elchibey

OW0210190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As has already been reported, during a visit to Baku by the British Trade Secretary, President Abulfaz Elchibey received a personal letter of invitation from Prime Minister John Major to visit Great Britain at an appropriate time.

The prime minister's letter expresses "satisfaction with the progress reached in developing bilateral relations since Azerbaijan became an independent state." One of the more "pleasant" pieces of news, Major writes, is the recent decision by the Azerbaijani Government to give the British Petroleum companies the right to explore for and develop Caspian oil deposits. The prime minister expressed the hope that this "new significant capital investment could become the foundation for commercial cooperation between the two countries."

Concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Major notes that the British Government does not doubt the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is a part of Azerbaijani territory. "We see the destructive conflict in this region as a threat to regional stability and a serious impediment to Azerbaijan and Armenia's transition from Soviet communist power to democracy. We support the efforts by the CSCE to bring all conflicting sides to attempt to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict during negotiations which would be acceptable to all," the British Prime Minister writes.

Russia Remains Main Trade Partner

NC0210220992 Baku TURAN in English 1140 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 1 Oct (TURAN)—After nearly a year of non-existence of the former USSR, Russia remains the main economic partner of Azerbaijan. According to statistical reports, 53 per cent of the Azeri export falls on Russia. The Russian share in the Azeri import accounts for 57 per cent.

For the [first] six months of 1992, total turnover among these two states made up 36.6 milliard [billion] rubles with the Azeri positive balance at 12 milliard rubles. Mainly, Russia delivers crude oil, iron-ore, chemical stuffs, timber and cars to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan exports oil-products, oil-equipment, sheet metal, aluminum, cotton fibre and alcoholic drinks to Russia.

Gasymov Comments on Meeting With Butrus-Ghali

LD0410171792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0340 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations, 2 Oct—A ceremony of signing an agreement on the opening of a temporary UN mission in Azerbaijan took place on Thursday [1 October] evening at the UN headquarters. The document was signed by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov.

After the ceremony we chatted with Butrus Ghali, T. Gasymov said in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. The secretary general told us that he is striving to help all the young independent states to solve the problems facing them, to complete their reforms as speedily as possible, and to create political and economic conditions for their advancement. There is in the UN system, he said, a whole number of bodies and programs which operate in this direction. Following the opening of the mission they will be working actively and will endeavor to help Azerbaijan to overcome all the difficulties they have been encountering since independence.

As far as the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is concerned, the minister added, the secretary general told us that the United Nations is naturally striving to help the the CSCE in settling this conflict, and is prepared to render every assistance toward this process. At the same time, he stressed that UN participation requires both sides' agreement.

For my part, I said that the crux of the problem lays in Armenia's territorial claims toward Azerbaijan, the minister continued. I pointed out that we also attach great significance to the peace process, that we have made great efforts, and it is not our fault that this has not brought results. In our opinion, efforts toward a settlement must continue, especially within the framework of the CSCE, and under CSCE guarantees. The number of conflicts which the UN has to deal with is growing all the time, and that is why we attach great significance to the activities of regional organizations to eliminate interethnic conflicts. Of course, the CSCE does not currently have any mechanisms, military formations, or economic potential. But these can be created. And the secretary general supported us.

I also told the secretary general about the directions of Azerbaijan's political and economic reforms, the minister went on. I stressed that we are building an independent, democratic, secular, and unitary state, and that we are preparing a new constitution. The first chapter in this document will be devoted to human rights, and the second to the mechanisms for ensuring these rights.

Low Turnout of Truce Monitors, Border Attacks

NC0210152792 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1009 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 2 Oct (ASSA-IRADA)—Only 25 monitors out of 250 envisaged by the Sochi agreement came to Azerbaijan.

This first group is from Russia. The Ukraine, Byelarus, Kazakhstan and Georgia have not yet delegated their representatives under the pretext that their composition is to be approved by the Supreme Soviet. The CSCE monitors have not arrived, either. Thus, the mechanism of realization of Sochi cease-fire agreement concerning border zones and Karabakh was not put into operation. The military actions are going on.

At the night of October 2 [as received] the border villages of Kazakhskiy, Zangelanskiy, Tauzskiy and Kedabekskiy were subjected to fire. The Armenian expeditional squads tried to attack Karabakh villages freed earlier by Azeri combatants ASSA-IRADA was told by MOD [Internal Affairs Ministry] of Azerbaijan.

Armenian Bombardment Ends Talks

NC0210143492 Baku AZERINFORM in English 1245 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 2 Oct (AZERINFORM)—The bombardment of Azerbaijan from the territory of Armenia was the reason of stopping the talks, which had just started between governmental delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the center of Kubatly area of Azerbaijan.

[In an earlier report, Baku TURAN in English at 0808 GMT on 2 October adds the following: "The next round of Azeri-Armenian peaceful negotiations has been started today in the frontier Azeri region of Zangelanskiy.

["The sides are going to negotiate the questions on lifting of blockade from the railway, energy and telephone communications, running through the territories of both republics and also creation of the security zone on the south sections of the Azeri-Armenian border."]

More on Shelling, Halt to Talks

NC0210165492 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1436 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 2 Oct (ASSA-IRADA)—The 3rd round of the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan lasted for [words indistinct] minutes.

It was caused by the mass fire from Armenia at Azeri residential area where the negotiations were held. The Azerbaijan delegation could only state that the Armenian side didn't fulfill the achieved agreement. Straight away after the statement the participants of the talks heard the explosions of shells launched from "Grad" ASSA-IRADA was told by prefect of Zangelanskiy Telman Kasimov. This incident was fixed by the Russian monitors and St. Petersburg TV men. As our agency has already reported the present place of the meeting between Azeri and Armenian delegation—Kollu village of Zangelanskiy—was subjected to fire by Armenians yesterday on the eve of the talks. But it turned out that a newly chosen Chardakhly village, Kubatlinskiy, was overtaken by the same fate. The delegations were headed by Vice-Chairman of Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet A. Dzhalilov and his Armenian counterpart A. Saakyan.

Deputy Says Negotiations Impossible

LD0210185992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By AZERINFORM special correspondent Viktor Shulman—TASS]

[Text] Kubatly October 2 TASS—Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, head of the Azeri delegation and deputy Azeri Supreme Soviet chairman, voiced the impossibility to continue negotiations with the Armenian governmental delegation.

The negotiations, which began at 15:00 local time [1200 GMT] near the Kubatly Regional Center, were broken practically at once as border settlements of the Kubatly Region were put under grad rocket launcher shelling from the Armenian side.

A strong protest was launched in this connection to the Armenians. Armenia was offered to thoroughly examine with participation of Russian observers the reasons for the unprecedented action that again aggravated the regional situation. All responsibility for breaking negotiations and possible consequences rest on the Republic of Armenia, the meeting was told.

The negotiations were attended by head of the Russian observer team Major-General Vitaliy Glushchuk.

Yeltsin Denies Plans To Send Troops to Karabakh

NC0210140892 Baku TURAN in English 1140 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 1 Oct (TURAN)—Azeri Plenipotentiary to Moscow Khikmet Hadji-Zade informed TURAN agency that in his message to the president of Azerbaijan, Russian President Boris Yeltsin had confirmed the Russian readiness to mediate the Armenian-Azeri conflict. In line with that, the Russian president objected to bringing the Russian troops into the conflict zone.

The Azeri-Armenian confrontation has assumed such an acute form there that it would be a mistake to dispatch the troops to Karabakh, outlined Boris Yeltsin in his message.

Following the latest statements of the Russian Defence Minister Grachev on possibility of dispatching of the troops to the conflict zone, Hadji-Zade said that proves the existence of serious divergence in views among the Russian politicans and not only on the approaches to the foreign policy.

Azerbaijan, Armenia Clashes Updated

NC0410182792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces [AAF] Command Headquarters has disclosed that exchanges of fire continue to take place in the disputed areas. By systematically firing on the AAF units, the Armenian side, which has failed to attach importance to the cease- fire agreement, has provoked our forces to take retaliatory measures. This has been confirmed by the incidents in the Republic's border areas and in Karabakh.

Mutudere in Kedabekskiy Rayon was fired on from Armenia's Krasnoselskiy Rayon with various types of arms the previous night. Yemezli, Agkend, Agdam, Kazanchi, and Seidlyar in Zangelanskiy Rayon also were fired on during the same night.

Enemy units have tried to maintain the tense situation in Karabakh. Towns under our army's control in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon and several of our positions in Agdamskiy Rayon have been fired on.

Our republic is waging a bloody war against the ferocious enemy. In addition to the reports we have received on the successful operations carried out by our armed units, we also have received sad news from the battlefields. A report from Kubatlinskiy Rayon said that Battalion Commander El'yar Aliyev, who bravely fought for the defense of our homeland, died heroically yesterday. God bless his soul. God bless the souls of all our martyrs.

Two-Month State of Emergency in Areas Near Iran

NC0210144992 Baku TURAN in English 1010 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Baku, 1 Oct (TURAN)—The two-month state of emergency has been imposed in the Azeri regions of Dzhalilabad and Yardymlinsky adjoining Iran under the edict of the president of Azerbaijan.

This step has been made to curb the smuggling gathering momentum in these regions and suppress the widespread banditry.

Many are the cases when criminal groups, uniting both Azeri and Irani citizens, committed acts in breach of law. Well-armed bands of frontier mafiosos are repeatedly giving real battles to frontier guards.

Azeri economy has suffered great damages through the unchecked smuggling of goods and food products from Azerbaijan to Iran.

Elchibey: Leaders Responsible for Slow Harvest

OW0210190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey warned the leaders of local administrations that they will be held personally responsible for the "inexcusable slow" harvest of the republic's main agricultural products, namely, cotton and grapes.

A presidential decree stated that a special committee headed by government adviser Arif Gadzhiev will determine instances of unsatisfactory work and intercept "sabotage" attempts.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Gadzhiev is a leading expert on administrative and territorial organs. Gadzhiev told "IF" [INTERFAX] that his main responsibility is to replace corrupted officials with honest supporters of President Elchibey.

The committee also includes the directors of 10 ministries and departments.

Elchibey directed the new staff to ensure an organized cotton and grape harvest "as soon as possible". In additions to the demand to establish "labor discipline" the document states that those involved in the harvest must be paid in a timely fashion.

Baku analysts said that Elchibey's decree will allow the realization of the goals of "a staff revolution" in the regions.

Islamic Party of Azerbaijan Established

NC0310102192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The Islamic Party of Azerbaijan has been officially established. Our correspondent has reported from Baku that the head of the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan has disclosed that the objective of the party is to organize the

Muslims and reacquaint them with the exalted Islamic objectives and values. He said: The Muslims, particularly the young Muslim men in Azerbaijan, have been eager to join the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan.

The party has published two magazines, the VOICE OF ISLAM and ISLAMIC WORLD.

Georgia

New Fighting in Gagra Heightens Abkhazia Conflict

Shevardnadze: Russia Aiding 'Conspiracy'

LD0210192192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 2 Oct—"The commission for implementing the final document of the 3 September Moscow meeting on settling the conflict in Abkhazia is not coping with its tasks," Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevarnadze told journalists today in Sukhumi. This commission, according to him, on the contrary "has brought the conflict in Abkhazia to a deadlock." Shevardnadze noted that the Georgian side has fulfilled the conditions of all the agreements reached recently. The Abkhazian side, however, according to him, has used the talks to attack the region around the town of Gagra that was taken today by Abkhazians and north Caucasus armed formations. Eduard Shevardnadze said "the events in Abkhazia are the result of a large-scale conspiracy against Georgia, and the Russian parliament decisions of 25 September have given impetus to broadening this conspiracy."

Council Accuses Russia of Supplying Arms

OW0210194392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council demands that Russia immediately stop its supplies of arms, ammunition and combat equipment to unlawful armed formations in Abkhazia. It also demands that the Russian side strictly abide by Moscow's Agreement re Abkhazia of September 3.

The statement by the Georgian State Council Friday [2 October] addressed to Russian President Boris Yeltsin emphasizes that "should Russia fail to comply with the provisions of Moscow's Agreement, Georgia will have the right to require from Russia complete withdrawal of its troops from the territory of the republic and a transfer to it of the whole share of the arms envisaged by conformable agreements".

In the opinion of the Georgian State Council, the tripartite commission for peaceful settlement in Abkhazia has not implemented its mission due to the Russian side which, "in fact, contributed to the escalation of hostilities in the region of Gagra". On Friday, the Abkhazian forces ejected Georgian troops from this town.

According to the statement, Russia is continuing to dispatch to Abkhazia "armed personnel and mercenaries, which fact contributes to further escalation of the conflict".

Commander Denies Russia Supplying Arms

LD0310212192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant General Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, by unidentified correspondent in Moscow on 3 October—recorded]

[Text] On the evening of 3 October, I managed to get through to Lieutenant-General Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, on the telephone. I asked him to comment on the Georgian State Council's claim that the Russian Army is supplying Abkhazia with military equipment.

[Begin recording] [Beppayev] I cannot say that it is being supplied with military equipment. Maybe they had this kind of equipment already.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that no equipment has been passed to Abkhaz formations lately?

[Beppayev] Absolutely not from troops of the district. But as far as other channels are concerned, or by air or by sea, if they have started getting it somewhere, we can't confirm this and we can't categorically deny it, either.

[Correspondent] The NEGA agency has issued a report to the effect that the Georgian State Council has allegedly taken under its jurisdiction all the combat equipment of the former USSR which is on Georgian territory.

[Beppayev] I reject this—this is not so, because I personally took part in the work of the State Council and I can tell you that there was a big scandal here; I had a conversation on more than one occasion with Eduard Shevardnadze, and when he was leaving, by air, he said that one should be very wary because any provocations could occur.

I spoke with Jaba Ioseliani. He asked me to come to the State Council and to explain the state of affairs regarding the district, otherwise, he said, an unpleasant situation would be created around the troops. Well, I said that the troops of the district have nothing to do with this, we are taking no part in this, we have orders from the president and the defense minister to maintain neutrality and not to interfere in these affairs. We are strictly fulfilling this.

[Correspondent] Don't you think that they want to place the responsibility for the exacerbation of the situation on Moscow?

[Beppayev] In any event, they want to place all responsibility on the Russian parliament.

[Correspondent] The Russian parliament?

[Beppayev] Yes. And, as they put it, on the reactionary hierarchy, in the leadership and the armed forces.

[Correspondent] What can you say about the situation in Abkhazia at the present time?

[Beppayev] Well, I have to say that the situation is at the moment on the whole a very complex one; the situation throughout Georgia has become very complex. This latest offensive, including the fall of Gagra, so to speak—or the taking of it, if you like; armed formations have entered it—has had a very negative affect on the whole situation here in Georgia. Naturally, this is what we sense here. [end recording]

State Council Says Russia Exacerbating Tension

OW0410175692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian state council has accused the Russian parliament of "provoking the latest violence in Abkhazia".

IF [INTERFAX] note: The council probably implies a recent statement and resolution by the Russian parliament demanding for the withdrawal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia.

In a letter to the CSCE council on Sunday [4 October], Georgian leaders said that the two papers had led to the escalation of the conflict and the upsurge of activity by extremist forces. "There is an open conspiracy by Abkhazian separatists and reactionary forces of Russia", they said.

To make things worse, says the letter, there has been an increase in the infiltration of armed groups from Russian territory both by land and sea, which is being monitored by the Russian armed forces.

According to the letter, the final victory by Russia's antidemocratic forces appears to be gathering in strength as indicated by recent events in Georgia which in itself "is a threat not only to Georgia but the world community as a whole". "It becomes clear, says the letter, that the aggressive forces will stop at nothing short of unleashing a large scale war in the Caucasian region, which threatens peace and security in Europe".

In this connection, the state council has appealed to the CSCE countries to take measures for regional normalization.

A similar letter was also sent to NATO.

Shevardnadze May Demand Russian Withdrawal

LD0310182692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1551 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Oct—In the event of failure to fulfill the Moscow treaty concluded on 3 September, the Georgian State Council reserves the right to demand the total withdrawal of all armed forces belonging to the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Georgia and the transfer to Georgia of all those armaments stipulated by these accords. This is stated in an address from Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze to President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, which ITAR-TASS received by fax today from the Georgian permanent mission in Moscow.

The document stresses that, in spite of the accords on settling the conflict in Abkhazia reached on 3 September in Moscow, the influx of fighters and mercenaries from the territory of the Russian Federation into Georgia is continuing. It notes that in recent days, heavy combat equipment not stipulated by any official treaties has appeared in the possession of illegal Abkhaz military units, and the tripartite commission for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Abkhazia has not carried out the commitments imposed upon it.

Shevardnadze on Appropriating Army Equipment

LD0410025292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0010 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 4 Oct—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, has made a decision to set up, in the area of the town of Gagra, individual armed formations under the command of Major General Georgiy Karkarashvili. The Georgian leader stated this at a news conference late Saturday [3 October] evening in Sukhumi. The meeting with journalists was arranged after the State Council chairman had visited the settlements of Gantiadi and Leselidze and held talks in Adler with Yuriy Vorobiev, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation's State Committee for Emergencies, and Boris Pastukhov, Russia's deputy foreign minister.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that other active measures would be also taken to ensure that, in the Gagra zone, the sides return to their 1 October positions. Before 3 October, he had still believed that peaceful ways could be found to solve the Abkhaz problem. "Now, however," he continued, "I can't see a way out of the blind alley."

The chairman of the State Council maintains that the Abkhaz leadership has perfidiously violated all the earlier accords and refused the option of going back to the 1

October status quo. Eduard Shevardnadze believes that the Russian leadership has failed to influence the internal opposition. He said that, in fact, the opposition had managed to legalize the perfidy of the Abkhaz leaders through a parliamentary decision.

Commenting at journalists' requests on the decision of the Georgian State Council to have all the military property of Russian troops transferred to the jurisdiction of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze said that this step was merely a follow-up to the decision that had been made as far back as last year, by the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia, which was then in force.

He also stated that bringing Russia's Armed Forces into the Gagra area without the approval or agreement with Tbilisi was out of the question. Otherwise, such actions would be perceived as aggression on the part of Russia against Georgia. At the same time, Shevardnadze did not preclude the possibility of involving the Russian military in the mixed peacekeeping forces, in order to protect communications on Abkhaz territory, provided the stipulations of the final document of the 3 September meeting in Moscow are adhered to.

Shevardnadze Links Events With Elections

LD0310163792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Tengiz Pachkorya]

[Text] Sukhumi October 3 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's Council of State, does not rule out the possibility that the latest developments in the area of the city of Gagra are connected with the forthcoming elections to the republican parliament and are aimed at frustrating them.

He said this late on Friday [2 October] night after meeting Colonel-General Georgiy Kondratyev, deputy defence minister of the Russian Federation, who had arrived here.

"Elections to the parliament of the Republic of Georgia will be held in any case and the Georgian state will gain a legitimate authority and legitimate leadership," Shevardnadze emphasised.

He pointed out that it is now of importance to make a decision on a peaceful settlement of the conflict. If this is not done, a military decision will have to be made, Shevardnadze said.

General Kondratyev, Georgian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze, State Council Member Goga Haindrava, and Colonel Viktor Kapkalia, a representative of the Abkhazian side, late on Friday night left by air for Gudauta where they had a meeting with Abkhazian Parliament Chief Vladislav Ardzinba.

Upon returning to Sukhumi, Kavsadze told journalists on Saturday morning that the Georgian side at the meeting urged the warring sides to withdraw to their previous positions and implement the three-sided Control and Inspection Commission's Protocol 7 signed on the night of October 1. Kavsadze told journalists that the Russian side, General Kondratyev in particular, supported the Georgian side's proposal.

According to the Georgian deputy premier, the meeting in Gudauta showed once again that Ardzinba was not interested in a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. "If the Abkhazian leadership does not meet the demands put forward at the meeting, the Georgian side will have to take adequate military measures," Kavsadze stated.

State Council Moves To Mobilize 40,000

LD0310103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi October 2 TASS—Georgia announced mobilisation of 40 thousand reservists after tensions flared up in Abkhazia on Friday [2 October]. Abkhazian forces seized the city of Gagra after clashes with Georgian governmental troops.

The State Council which discussed "the military defeat in the Gagra zone of the conflict in Abkhazia" refused, however, to proclaim total mobilisation. The meeting of the State Council was chaired by Jaba Ioseliani, as Eduard Shevardnadze left for Sukhumi after a series of telephone conversations with Russian officials. Ioseliani said Shevardnadze's aim is to use "the remaining chances of a political settlement of the conflict".

Several members of the State Council said it is necessary to create a single military committee and proclaim a state of emergency in the whole of the republic.

However, Ioseliani insisted that the decision cannot be adopted without Shevardnadze and warned that a state of emergency would impede the holding of parliamentary elections scheduled for October 11.

A number of State Council members accused the Defence Ministry for the defeat in Gagra.

Council Initiates 'Emergency Action Regime'

LD0310164292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1541 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow, 3 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The permanent mission of the Republic of Georgia in Moscow today distributed a statement by the State Council that says that the mobilization of the reserve was announced "to repulse, in an appropriate manner, the extremists and terrorists who are threatening encroachments on our country's territorial integrity."

"It is evident that a continuation of the bloodshed and an escalation of the conflict are contrary to the interests not only of the Georgian people but also of the Abkhazians, threatening them with mortal danger," the document states.

"The State Council of the Republic of Georgia," it indicates further, "is from today going over to an emergency action regime to carry out, on time, all the necessary measures required to guarantee the safety of the population, a high degree of combat effectiveness in the military units, and Georgia's territorial integrity".

Commander Warns of 'Massive' Gagra Offensive

OW0310170792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] G. Karkarashvili, the commander of Georgian forces in Abkhazia, has announced that if the situation as of 1 October is not restored and Abkhazian forces are not withdrawn from Gagra, a massive offensive against the city will be launched be Georgian armed forces. INTERFAX was informed of the statement by the permanent Georgian mission in Moscow.

Parts of the Georgian National Army have fortified their positions on the outskirts of the city and are taking "defensive measures," advised the mission. As Karkarashvili said, "until now we have not waged war, but now we have been forced to declare war."

According to the Georgian mission, Georgians, which comprise about 30% of the population of Gagra, (6%-7% are Abkhazian, and about 30% are Armenian), "have been forced to leave the city and to go to Gantiadi and Leselidze."

Abkhazia Rejects Talks on Gagra

OW0310172292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Heads of Gagra Administration Ruslan Yazychba informed INTERFAX that since Saturday morning the Georgian aviation has been bombing Gagra. There are victims. Ruslan Yazychba also said that during the operation to restore control over Gagra on Friday, the Abkhazian side seized 4 guns, 67 armored personnel carriers and 1 T-54 tanks from the Georgian garrison pressed out of the city. Fifteen corpses were found in the streets.

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Kavsadze, the leader of the Georgian delegation in the tripartite commission told journalists on Friday that Abkhazia "will not hold any talks on the restoration of the previous positions in Gagra."

Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists on Friday that the Russian delegation in the tripartite commission shares Tbilisi's conviction that the old positions in the region of Gagra must be restored. Shevardnadze warned that if "no peaceful solution is found, Georgia will have to mobilize all the reserves and start combat operations."

Abkhaz Talks Deadlocked Overnight

LD0310210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 3 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Adler, 3 Oct—According to reports from Gudauta, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev had a meeting there yesterday with Abkhazian and Georgian representatives. The talks, which lasted until 0300, got nowhere. The Georgian side issued another ultimatum to the Abkhazian side, demanding that they stop firing and withdraw their armed formations to the lines occupied by them until 1200 hours on 1 October—in other words, to the River Bzyb—by 0900 hours today. If this demand is not met, the Georgian side reserves the right to settle the issue by military means alone. The Abkhazian side rejected the ultimatum, stating that it was prepared to cease all military operations and to disarm its units only on the condition that Georgian forces withdraw completely from Abkhazian territory.

This morning, Yuriy Vorobyev, deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies, has been holding continuous talks with the leadership of Georgia, Abkhazia, and Russia from the airport in Adler. The Georgian side reiterated its readiness for dialogue on the condition that the Abkhazian units withdraw from Gagra to the River Bzyb. The Abkhazian side, for its part, stated that its units should reach the border with Russia on the River Psou by this evening.

It was learned from Russian military observers this morning that around 300 cars and about 2,500 refugees from the region of Gagra, heading for Russia, crossed the Psou today. The same reports say that approximately 20,000 refugees are heading for the Russian border.

The Russian side has received a request from the Georgian post on the Psou asking for around 1,000 State Council servicemen to be allowed on Russian territory, without their weapons. They are completely demoralized and are retreating from their positions in a disorderly manner.

The Russian side is taking all measures to accommodate and receive the refugees. As a result of talks held by Yuriy Vorobyev, the Abkhazian side has agreed to demilitarize the sector from the Psou to Gagra and to allow Russian peacekeeping forces to be deployed there. The Georgian leadership is studying this option, but the Russian section of the Control and Inspection Commission in Abkhazia has not yet received a specific response to the proposal.

Forces Attack Gagra with Missiles, Bombs

LD0410151592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Correspondent Ruslan Khashig report by telephone; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in the town of Gagra, which has been freed of Georgian State Council forces, is being controlled by the Abkhazian side by means of a commandant's platoon. Localized exchanges of fire are taking place in the suburbs of Gagra.

After their retreat, Georgian sub-units have taken up defensive positions at the settlement of Gantiadi. The Georgian forces command is airlifting weapons and ammunition to the settlement by helicopter.

At 0800 today, Georgian aircraft inflicted a missile and bomb strike on the town of Gagra. There are casualties among the civilian inhabitants.

The committee of Georgian patriots has called on the Georgian soldiers to halt the senseless war in Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Calls on Forces To Retake Gagra

OW0410173692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Gagra has been and will remain Georgia's western gates and we must re-take it", the head of Georgia's ruling state council, Eduard Shevardnadze, told a crowd of 5,000 protesters gathering in the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi on Sunday [4 October].

He called on the Georgian population of Abkhazia for unity in the struggle against the external enemy as well as to turn up at next Sunday's [11 October] general election, which he described as crucial to the future of Georgia.

On Georgia's relations with Russia, Shevardnadze spoke of President Yeltsin's understanding of the regional conflict, but "he was obstructed by reactionary forces within the Russian parliament".

The rally adopted a resolution describing any further negotiation as useless and calling for all measures, including military, to restore order and to expel the militants of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus from Georgian territory. The resolution also demands that the Abkhazian parliament be dissolved, and Russian troops withdrawn from Georgia because of their involvement in the republic's internal affairs.

Shevardnadze is expected to return to Tbilisi on Sunday night.

'Fierce Fighting' Near Gagra 5 Oct

OW0510113192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1056 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The headquarters of the Abkhazian homeguard reports that at about 5:00 October 5 Georgian forces, supported by tanks, attacked the Abkhazian positions near Gagra in Abkhazia. The troops of the State Council managed to move forward, but an Abkhazian counterattack hurled them back to the old positions. Since 8:00, fierce fighting has been going on near Gagra.

The same source reports that the Georgian troops are concentrating armored vehicles and personnel near Ochamchira, and are regrouping their forces.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Abkhazian Provisional Stabilization Committee announced that the conflicting parties were not involved in major combat operations.

According to the press center, on the night October 4 and on Monday morning there was intensive shooting in the region of the river Gumista near Sukhumi. Also, there were combat operations in the Ochamchira region.

The population of Sukhumi has formed up voluntary units. On Sunday, several hundred volunteers patrolled the city.

Shevardnadze Helicopter Shot at 3 Oct

LD0410095192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Sukhumi, 4 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—On the evening of 3 October, an MI-24 military helicopter without identification marks "came within a very close distance, undertook dangerous maneuvers, and made as if it intended to ram the civilian helicopters" carrying Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, and other leading republic officials. A short while later shots rang out from an unidentified motor launch in the direction of these same Georgian helicopters, which were forced to return to Gantiadi (a town in western Georgia on the Abkhazian-Russian border).

This was reported at a news conference in Sukhumi today by Aleksandr Kavsadze, vice premier of the Republic of Georgia. According to him, Eduard Shevardnadze and his entourage, including Aleksandr Kavsadze himself, left Gantiadi in motor vehicles for Adler (a town on the Black Sea coast of Russia) where they held an impromptu meeting with Boris Pastukhov, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Russia; Yuriy Borovyev, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Emergency Situations; and other Russian representatives.

Aleksandr Kavsadze called the incident "a terrorist act against the Georgian leadership and an attempt upon Eduard Shevardnadze's life." According to Kavsadze, Georgia's leadership has instructed the Republic's security bodies to investigate what happened and to institute criminal proceedings.

Russian representatives, the Georgian vice premier noted, expressed concern over the incident and have for their part promised to investigate what happened.

Council Statement on Shevardnadze Attack

LD0410133492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The first Mayak Panorama news summary opens with an official report—the statement by the Georgian State Council in connection with the attack on the chairman of the Georgian State:

At 1820 on 3 October, in the vicinity of the town of Gagra, the helicopter carrying Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, and the members of the government accompanying him was attacked and fired upon by an unidentified combat helicopter, according to the official statement of the Georgian State Council which ITAR-TASS has received.

That terrorist act, the statement says, committed against the head of an independent sovereign state in the airspace of the Republic of Georgia, is a logical continuation of the events of 2 October in the town of Gagra when, perfidiously violating the agreement on a ceasefire and on disengaging the warring sides which was signed the day before, armed detachments of Abkhaz separatists and their mercenaries invaded from the territory of the Russian Federation and attacked the town of Gagra using state of the art heavy weaponry and rocket artillery.

The mass killings and destruction wreaked by the terrorists on the defenseless town essentially cancels the provisions of the final document of the Moscow meeting of 3 September and of all the efforts undertaken to settle the conflict by peaceful means since it was signed.

In this connection, the Georgian State Council Georgia states: In reply to the mass killings, the terrorist acts, the appearance of perfidy and deceipt, and the flouting of the agreements reached, the State Council will take any measures which it considers necessary to put a decisive end to such actions and to defend the sovereign rights of the Republic of Georgia.

Military 'Source' Denies Attack

OW0410174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A source close to the military command of Russian army units deployed at a military airport in the town of Gudauta speaking in an interview with IF [INTERFAX] has denied reports about alleged attack on Shevardnadze's helicopter near Gagra on Saturday [3 October].

He spoke of a near-accident situation emerging after Shevardnadze's MI-8 helicopter and its MI-24 escort helicopter, neither of them carrying signal lights, had approached each other at a near-collision distance.

However, the source gave no comment about the report saying Shevardnadze's craft had come under fire from an attacking helicopter, as claimed by today's statement by Georgia's ruling state council.

Abkhazians Present Ultimatum

OW0410142292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The command of the Abkhazian home guard demanded the Georgian forces, which had left the city of Gagra and concentrated in the region of Leselidze, a village bordering Russia, to surrender. The ultimatum presented to the Georgian command on Saturday [3 October] evening states that the Abkhazian command guarantees to the Georgian soldiers a possibility to leave Abkhazia by sea without any hindrances, the defense headquarters of Abkhazia told INTERFAX. The reaction of the Georgian command is unknown yet.

According to the headquarters, the forces of the Georgian State Council are transporting additional forces and ammunition to Leselidze by air.

The headquarters also reported that the central part of Gagry which was occupied by the Abkhazians on October 2 was subjected to rocket-bomb strike at 7.00 on Sunday morning by two Georgian military SU-25 aircraft. The life and limb losses are not known yet. The day before two SU-25 aircraft and two MI-24 helicopters were also bombing the city.

According to the headquarters, following two days of fighting for Gagry the detachments of the Abkhazian home guard have defeated 5 battalions of the State Council's forces, captured more than 100 people, 9 APCs, 3 howitzers, 2 automatic grenade cup dischargers, ammunitions and military equipment.

The headquarters reported that on Saturday evening the Abkhazian guerrillas occupied the villages of Atara Abkhazskaya and Atara Armenian of the Ochamchira region in Abkhazia. According to preliminary data, as for the Georgians their life and limb losses account for 500 people.

The press center of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet reports that the command of the home guard was ordered to prevent robbery, marauding, and identical crimes in Gagra. The statement of the Abkhazian parliament's presidium cites that "the people captured will be punished in accordance with the legislation now in force."

Ioseliani Denies Shevardnadze Resignation

OW0410175192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1727 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Georgian state council, Jaba Ioseliani, has described as new lies and misinformation some media reports saying Eduard Shevardnadze did not rule out the possibility of stepping down as head of the council.

Abkhazia Accuses Georgia of Power Blockade

LD0410190592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1514 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Moscow October 4 TASS—Abkhazian authorities have accused Georgia of imposing a power blockade on Abkhazia to force the republic to give up on its efforts to gain independence from Georgia.

"On October 2, the Georgian authorities represented by Gruzenergo (Georgian power grids) declared under a bogus pretext (power line damage) a power blockade against the Republic of Abkhazia," the press service of the Abkhazian ambassador to Russia said in a statement received from Gudauta via telephone.

The examination of all high-voltage power lines in the Gudauta and Gagra Districts has shown that such statements are groundless. The action aimed to put economic pressure on Abkhazia, the statement said.

ITAR-TASS Summarizes Situation

LD0410184692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 4 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Oct—The sharp worsening of the situation in Abkhazia, where Abkhazian formations and mountain volunteers from the north Caucasus captured the town of Gagra earlier this week, has seriously complicated relations between Russia and Georgia.

On 3 October the Georgian State Council decided "to take under its control in the very near future all the equipment, armaments, and property of the Russian [as received] Armed Forces deployed on its territory." Moscow reaction was quick. Today Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, called upon the Georgian leadership to cancel this "unilateral" decision, threatening otherwise to take retaliatory measures.

In a statement issued on 4 October by the press service for the Ministry of Defense, Grachev warned that the measure taken by the State Council "leads to a blatant violation of previously reached agreements" on the allocation of equipment, armaments, and property from the former USSR Armed Forces to Georgia and "may provoke an armed clash with the military formations of the Russian Armed Forces." Earlier this year Russia took under its control the armed forces of the former USSR deployed in the former Soviet republics. According to the general, they were given the order to "prevent the forced confiscation" of military and civilian property under Russian jurisdiction.

Commenting on the decision by the State Council, Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze said on 3 October that this step was "simply a continuation of the decision made last year by the then functioning Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia."

Speaking yesterday evening to journalists in Sukhumi, Shevardnadze said that it had been decided to set up separate armed formations around Gagra. He promised to take other effective measures to reestablish the positions in which the two sides had found themselves in the Gagra zone on 1 October. As is well known, the storming of Gagra began last Thursday. According to Shevardnadze, until 3 October he still believed that a peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz problem was possible. "Right now, however," he said, "I do not see a way out of the impasse."

The chairman of the State Council did not even exclude the possibility of his own resignation. However, a State Council spokesman claimed on 4 October that Shevardnadze had not even touched upon this subject in Sukhumi.

For his part, President Boris Yeltsin warned on 3 October that Russia might get involved in the conflict if agreements reached on 3 September in Moscow by Russian, Georgian, and Abkhaz leaders and representatives of neighboring north Caucasian republics are not respected. Talking Saturday to Shevardnadze on the telephone, Yeltsin threatened "to take appropriate measures to defend the interests of Russian citizens who find themselves in danger." The Georgian side indirectly puts the blame for the latest flareup of tensions in Abkhazia on the Russian leadership, which did not manage to influence its own opposition who practically legalized "the treachery of the Abkhaz leaders." On 25 September the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution which accused Georgia of provoking an armed conflict with Abkhazia in mid-August through armed intervention.

Estonia

Finance Minister, Bank President Discuss IMF Meeting

WS0210130292 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1224 GMT 1 Oct 92

[From 1 October ARIPAEV, p 3 and PAEVALEHT, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, October 1—President of the Bank of Estonia Siim Kallas and Minister of Finance Rein Miller held a news conference yesterday after their return from the IMF annual meeting. The attitude towards Estonia was favourable, Kallas told the news conference. Estonia was elected the member of the IMF Joint Procedure Committee which includes 15 states, and also joined the Mutual Investment Guarantees Agency.

The IMF was somewhat concerned with the government decision to increase the minimum wages to 300 kroons per month as that might threaten the balanced budget. Kallas also enumerated the IMF conditions other than the one concerning the budget. The new government is expected to make a definite statement on continuing the present hard monetary policy. The foreign exchange reserve is to exceed 12 million dollars at least. The IMF also stressed the importance of open economy. For example, Estonia cannot prevent the import of Finnish or Danish butter, Kallas pointed out.

Kallas also stressed the necessity of slowing down the inflation. The IMF expressed its hope that the monthly inflation rate will be slowed to 1.5 percent by the end of the year and the yearly inflation rate to 4 percent by mid-1993. The IMF and the World Bank do not support the Russian threats of economic embargo, Kallas added.

Rein Miller described Estonia's chances of a 30 million dollar loan from the World Bank. The credit is to be used for purchasing fuel, medical supplies, fodder, spare parts etc. profits from sale of some imported articles are to form a special fund for crediting enterprise. Miller also negotiated with the representatives of the Japanese Export and Import Bank who are to visit Estonia on October 5. The Baltic states can receive 100 million dollars worth credit (Estonia 20-22 million dollars).

State Assembly Opens First Session

OW0510120192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1123 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first session of the State Assembly (parliament) of the Estonian Republic opened in Tallinn Monday, October 5. Estonia's new parliament was elected September 20.

According to the preliminary arrangements, today the deputies will be sworn in, they will approve the agenda of the first session, and elect the parliament speaker and his two deputies. Then they will be electing the republic's president.

If either of the two candidates to the presidential office—former chairman of the Estonian Supreme Council Arnold Ruutel or the republic's former minister of foreign affairs, Estonian Ambassador to Finland Lennart Meri—collects the majority of votes, the winner will be sworn in Tuesday.

In the opinion of the experts, the first day of work of the republic's new parliament is likely to produce various "surprises." In particular, the elections alliance "Eesti Kodanik" ("Estonian Citizen"), with eight seats in the parliament, may come up with a proposal to introduce changes in the presidential elections procedures. They want the republic's president to be elected separately by a direct popular ballot, on the alternative basis, with other candidates running for the office.

The deputies are also expected to approve provisional timetable of the parliament operation and adopt the proposed structure of the State Assembly secretariat.

Beginning from early Monday morning, the parliament building was picketed by students who demanded higher stipends.

Three Parties Join Forces as Right-Centrist League

WS0210130492 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1424 GMT 1 Oct 92

[From 1 October POSTIMEES, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, October 1—The Coalition Party, the Rural Party and the Democratic Justice League joined in the League of Right-Centrist Parties which will continue the policy introduced by the Safe Home Alliance. Riivo Sinijarv, former Minister of Industry and Energetics, was chosen leader of the party.

The three political forces having joined in the Safe Home before the elections announced that the new league is open to other parties and organisations which are right-centrist. The Safe Home alliance (now renamed to League of Right-Centrist Parties) won 17 seats in the Riigikogu and is the second largest political faction in the parliament at present.

Chairman Details Cabinet Ambitions

OW0410172192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1625 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonia's Right-of-Center Union wants the posts of prime minister and all ministers in charge of the economy in the new government, Peeter Lorents, chairman of the Coalition Party, one of the parties forming the union, told BF [BALTFAX].

"We don't have any personal ambitions. We are simply concerned about the future of the Estonian people," Lorents said. "We think nobody else can lead the economy out of the crisis." In his opinion, Riivo Sinijarv, the present Deputy Minister of Industry and Energy, is the best candidate to the post of Prime Minister.

The Right-of-Center Union, formed on the basis of the Kindel Kodu electoral bloc, has 17 seats in the State Assembly. Unless the union gets the posts it wants, Lorents said, it will take a stand of "constructive opposition." According to Indrek Kannik, chairman of the 29-member Isamaa group, the largest one in the parliament, the Right-of-Center Union's stance makes it rather unlikely that it will get any posts in the government at all.

Kannik told BF the union, or, to be more accurate, the Coalition Party, has been offered two or three posts in the government, in proportion to its representation in the parliament, namely the posts of Economics, Finance, and Transport Ministers. Giving the union any more posts is impossible, Kannik said, adding that the coalition government will most likely consist of members of Isamaa, the National Independence Party, and the Moderate Bloc.

Ulo Laanoja, deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party, who represents the Moderate Bloc in the parliament, told BF the Moderates also regard the Right-of-Center Union's ambitions as exaggerated. "They either hope to make a more advantageous compromise by asking too much or want to block the forming of the government because, in that case, a new parliamentary election will be held," Laanoja said.

Government Adopts Resolutions on Resignations, Property

WS0210130092 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1224 GMT 01 Oct 92

[From 1 October RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] Thursday, October 1—Yesterday's government session passed a State Assembly draft resolution on the resignation of the government. Deputy Minister Krista Kilvet, government advisors Peeter Lorents and Yevgeniy Golikov and Deputy Minister of Commerce Raivo Kutt announced of their resignation.

Government passed two resolutions on heating. According to the first one, expenses to thermal energy exceeding 25 percent of a family's total income will be compensated by the state. The other resolution concerns the subordination of heating services and enterprises to municipal authorities within October.

Government granted Estonia's first concession to a company formed by Estonian "Telecom" (51 percent of shares) and Swedish and Finnish telecommunications enterprises for 10 years. The project concerns the modernization and extension of international, long-distance and local communications. The concession does not prevent other firms from improving local communications while the long-distance communications are to be monopolized by the company which is to begin its activities from January 1, 1993. The cost of the project is expected to be at least 200 million dollars, "Telecom" General Director Toomas Somera said. He added that a digital international phone exchange built by "Siemens" and "Ericsson" is to open in December. Estonia's new international phone code is to be 327, Somera announced.

Government also passed a resolution on leasing conditions of state property. State property will have to be either privatized (public sale or auction), municipalized or to remain in state ownership, Tiit Vahi explained. Leasing is to be only a temporary measure and the new order is to guarantee that. The state will retain the right to change the leasing conditions according to inflation and market prices.

Budget Problems Restrict Russian Television Relays

LD0410115992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The budget of Estonian television no longer allows the relay of a full schedule of three channels of Russian television. Broadcasts from the Ostankino television tower will be transmitted from 0800 to 1100 and again after 1700.

Latvia

Ministers Council Must Revise Draft Budget by 12 Oct

LD0410184392 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2130 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The Latvian Council of Ministers, together with the Latvian Bank and the local government union, must revise draft state budget concepts by 12 October in compliance with amendments proposed by several parliamentary commissions. The present variant predicts a budget shortfall of approximately 2.5 million rubles for the next fiscal year.

During the government's plenary session yesterday the Latvian prime minister Ivars Godmanis expressed his objection to the Bank of Latvia's management, saying that in the event that mutual relations be not improved, the government would be forced to establish a state-owned commercial bank focusing on hard currency transactions.

Mr. Repse, the president of the Bank of Latvia, in his response accentuated that the Bank of Latvia was not a commercial bank. He said that the policy of the Bank of Latvia was to direct currency transactions to corresponding exchanges. Mr. Repse also believes that the current accounting system purportedly introduced [words indistinct].

Official Comments on Beginning of State Service Draft

OW0210225492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1859 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Latvian legislation, a draft for state service began October 1. Men 19 years of age will have to serve 1 and a half years in military service or 2 years in labor. The legislation does not stipulate the draft of students, although they will enter state service within 6 months of completion of higher education.

Head of the administration of the Latvian state service of mobilization of the defense ministry Aleksandr Donik told BALTFAX that the problem with the draft is that a law on citizenship has still not been passed, and the law on state service contains a provision that permanent residents of Latvia are to summoned for service.

For service in the armed forces a knowledge of the state language is needed, but not all draftees have a mastery of the language.

Government Frees Prices for Alcoholic Beverages, Bread, Flour

LD0410164292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] From 2 October prices for alcoholic drinks, bread, and flour products have been freed in Latvia, the RIKA agency reports. Among the reasons for the latest rise in prices is the start of the use of grain from the state reserve purchased at new terms which were less advantageous for Latvia. Moreover, a new and higher turnover tax has taken effect.

According to calculations by the Agriculture Ministry, before December the price of black bread will increase approximately 10 to 12 rubles, and the price of white bread will increase eight rubles.

With a view to slowing down the rise in bread prices, Latvia's Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has proposed that the profit margin for enterprises marketing grain be administratively restricted to 15 percent.

Official Claims 20,000 Unemployed; Experts Disagree

OW0510120292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1124 GMT 05 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Latvia the number of unemployed is growing close to 20,000, head of the Latvian Employment Service Sergejs Blazevics told the newspaper Diena.

According to the latest estimates, there are 18,588 unemployed officially registered in Latvia; 16,633 of them receive unemployment benefits. By September 29, 32,461 Latvian citizens had been looking for jobs. There is a special group of 370 so-called permanent unemployed—people who have failed to find a job within six months and who are not entitled to benefits.

Chairman of the Association of Free Latvian Unions Aivars Silins is convinced that the figures quoted by the State Employment Service do not reflect the actual situation because they do not take into account the so-called latent unemployment whereby people have to go on forced collective or individual leaves because their enterprises have no money to pay salaries to them. In experts' estimate, the real level of unemployment is 10 times higher than the official one.

The Riga branch of the employment service says that latent unemployment has affected 20 per cent of the work-fit population. In recent months, a number of Latvia's biggest enterprises had to dismiss 50 percent of the personnel.

Lithuania

Deputy Minister Affirms Russia Will Not Cut Off Gas Supplies

LD0310185192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Deputy Minister of Power Engineering Robertas Tamosiunas has announced that Russia will not cut off supplies of natural gas to Lithuania. Last week the Russian gas company Lentransgaz informed the Lithuanian prime minister, Aleksandras Abisala, that gas supplies would be stopped as of 2 October if Lithuania did not pay off its debt for the amount already supplied.

The debt built up because Russia refuses to recognize the price fixed earlier in the Lithuanian-Russian agreement and now demands to be paid for the gas already supplied four times more. The Lithuanian negotiators expect to persuade Russia not to impose customs duties on the gas exported to Lithuania. If such an agreement is reached it will considerably lower the price of gas in comparison with what Russia demands now.

The Lithuanian fuel company and Russian suppliers are expected to reach a final agreement on the gas price by 10 October.

Landsbergis Criticizes News Service Over Disinformation

OW0210220892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Vilnius the Chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis warned journalists from placing too much faith in information printed by "BALTIC NEWS SERVICE" [BNS].

"Our press and television like the BNS and believe its reports, as a result the reader often receives inaccurate information", the parliamentary speaker said.

Landsbergis said an example of the disinformation is a report that the Russian Foreign Ministry is preparing to impose sanctions against Estonia since 40% of the republic's voters were deprived of their right to vote. Landsbergis reminded journalists of a "well-known fact"; "The issue of Estonian citizenship was decided in a referendum". IF [INTERFAX] Note: The BNS report Landsbergis was referring to said: "...the collegium of the Russian government passed a decision to impose sanctions against Estonia since the government of that republic deprived 40% of the voters, mainly Russian-speaking residents, from participating in parliamentary and presidential elections September 20th".

Analysts said the parliamentary speaker's criticism of the BNS came after an interview with Landsbergis printed September 8th became one of the formal reasons Russian President Boris Yeltsin refused to sign an agreement on the withdrawal of Russian forces from the republic.

Home Guard Official Outlines Plans for National Navy

OW0310001192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1702 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Lithuania ought to possess a small but well equipped navy," said Captain Euginijus Miliauskas, chief of the naval department of the joint headquarters of the Lithuanian Home Guard Ministry, in an interview for the republican daily paper "Ekho Litvy" ("Echo of Lithuania").

The Russian Baltic Fleet is known to transfer to Lithuania two of its ASW [anti-submarine warfare] ships and two torpedo boats.

In the words of the chief of the joint headquarters of the Lithuanian Home Guard Ministry, LTC Valdas Tutkus, Lithuania is currently planning to set up a naval division with no further expansion of the Lithuanian navy in the subsequent 5-10 years. "The navy will be assigned the mission of protecting the Lithuanian economic zone, as well as protection of the fishing sites from the poachers. But we are not going to fight with anyone," he remarked.

At present, the Lithuanian Naval Forces have 300 officers and men. The commissioned officers and the NCOs are professional soldiers who serve on contracts. The enlisted men in the Navy are composed of conscripts, while in the future, Mr Tutkus says, the seamen in the Lithuanian Navy will also serve on a contractual basis.

Premier Abisala Visits Ignalina Atomic Power Station

OW0410170092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1624 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 3 the Lithuanian premier Aleksandras Abisala and Energy Minister Leonas Asmantas visited the Ignalina atomic power station and examined the second reactor which is under planned repair.

During his visit to the village of Visaginas (former Snechkus) the premier met with the leaders of the self-management bodies and was intended to meet with local residents.

Prime Minister Describes Cooperation With Poland

LD0410165392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Speaking at a press conference today, Lithuania's Prime Minister Aleksandras Abisala announced that a new customs checkpoint would soon start functioning at the Lithuanian-Polish border. Only vehicles that will not require much time for checking them, for instance the already customs-checked and sealed ones, will be allowed to pass this newly established checkpoint. The checkpoint will be ready to function in its full capacity in the June of the coming year.

The decision to open a new checkpoint had been made at the meeting between the Government's leaders of Lithuania and Poland last Monday [28 September] in Warsaw. It was also agreed between the representatives of Poland's and Lithuania's law and order institutions that starting with 1 November, an officer of the Lithuanian police would begin working in Poland and a Polish police officer in Lithuania. These two officials will assist in keeping contacts between the two countries' ministries of internal affairs.

Besides, Poland and Lithuania will cooperate in fighting organized crime, trade in drugs, and will give assistance in search of missing persons.

Lithuania's minister of internal affairs pointed out that the law and order institutions of both countries are mostly concerned about two crime groups, one of which is occupied in illegal transportation of non-ferrous metals, and the other sales in Lithuania and Poland of cars stolen from the countries of West Europe.

Defense Minister Agrees to Exchange of Attaches With Poland

LD0410110192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The Lithuanian minister of national defense, Audrius Butkevicius, has announced that Lithuania and Poland are going to have an exchange of military attaches. An agreement to this effect was reached earlier this week as Minister Audrius Butkevicius visited Poland and met with that country's defense minister, Janusz Onyszkiewicz.

The two states began work on drawing up treaties on security and trust in in mutual relations, as well as on the state border and its regime. During the meeting the two defense ministers also discussed the positions of Lithuania and Poland in international security structures, including those of the Baltic Sea region.

Permanent Mission Opening at UN Headquarters in Geneva

LD0410200792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2014 GMT 2 Oct 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius October 3 TASS - A permanent mission of the Lithuanian Republic at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva will open on November 1, 1992, says a decision of the Lithuanian Government published here on Friday.

Under the decision, the aim of the new mission is to have a Lithuanian representative to all U.N. organizations acting in Geneva, primarily the Economic Commission for Europe. It will have the status of an independent division of the Lithuanian mission at the United Nations in New York City.

The mission will be headed by Narcizas Prielajda, 72, a citizen of the Lithuanian Republic, who migrated to the West in 1944. He is the head of the Lithuanian community in Switzerland.

Foreign Ministry Expresses Concern Over Russian Army Actions

LD0410083392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 30 Oct 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has dispatched a note to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressing concern about the actions of Russian armed forces not corresponding with the concluded interstate agreements.

The note mentions two facts provoking doubts whether the Russian Federation intends to observe obligations envisaged in bilateral agreements. They are: Training shooting exercises carried out on 21 September by the 108th Regiment of the 7th Airborne Division, where shells fell at the quarry of the ceramic factory in Rokai, and the prohibition by the Center of the Russian Air Force on 23 September with regard to Lithuanian planes overflying the air-photo objects in the northern part of the republic.

Because of these actions material losses have been inflicted on the Lithuanian Republic and the mentioned shooting represents danger to Lithuanian citizens.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requests that these events are thoroughly investigated and expects information on the results of the investigation.